ZERO-SUM COMICS

あまつき 11

高山しのぶ

エロニ 一迅社

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Presented by
Shinobu Tokuyama

Amatsuki 11

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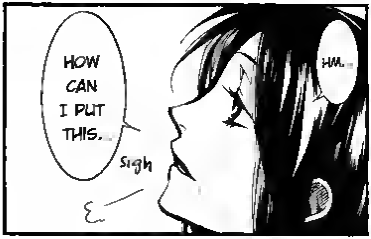
Ginshu

Kuwotobi

Amatsuki
Takamagahara Shinobu

She was beautiful.

I was too young to really appreciate that, though.



I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I'M A GOOD PERSON OR A BAD ONE...
I'M LIKE A GHOST,
YOU COULD SAY.

I CAN ONLY BE HUMAN FOR SUOU.
Her eyes were so sad...

Chapter 61: The Mugwort That Grows Among The Hemp, Part 5

GRRR
RRR
RR
HOOOWL
WHAT THE FUCK!?
ARE THEY DEAD!?
GASP
STAY CALM!
THEY'RE IMPORTANT PEOPLE!
WHERE IS IT TAKING THEM!?
HUH?
WHO IS HE?

And with that hairstyle, he must be a guy.
IMPORTANT PEOPLE SOMETIMES SNEAK DOWN TO THE KITCHENS,
BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN HIS FACE AROUND THE SHRINE BEFORE I DON'T THINK HE'S A GUEST.
The same face? No...
They just have the same mole.
DO YOU THINK HE COULD BE INVOLVED WITH THE GOVERNMENT?
MAY-BE.
IS THE GOVERNMENT INTERESTED IN DEMONS, TOO?
UM...
IT'S JUST A HUNCH, BUT...
AT FIRST I THOUGHT THE YAKOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY GOALS, YOU KNOW?
HE WAS AS FACELESS AND FORMLESS AS SMOKE...
WHAT IS ILLUSION?
BUT THE MORE I SAW HIM,
THE MORE I FELT LIKE HE WAS ALWAYS SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING...

MAYBE BECAUSE HE WAS IN HUMAN FORM?
BUT SOMETHING WAS DIFFERENT THIS TIME.
SEEMED MORE... WELL... MORE LIKE A PERSON.
HE'S BEEN COLLECTING HUMANS AND DEMONS!
AND COLLECTING INFORMATION...
THAT'S NOT ALL.
IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S TARGETING TOKI AND THAT GOVERNMENT GUY...
HE'S GETTING GREEDY AND AMBITIOUS!
MAYBE HE WANTS TO MAKE A DEMON PARADISE OR SOMETHING?
NO WAY, HE JUST WANTS TO WRECK THE HUMAN WORLD!
STOW!

LUNGE
RIGHT!?
OR WHAT?
TCH
AM I...
SO?
GRAB
stuck
GRRR
GRRR
SLASH

GRR!
SNARL
SNARL
GRR
GRR
GRR
GRR
GRR
ARGH!
PASH
YOU CAN'T FIGHT THIS THING!!
YOUR SWORD'S GONNA SNAP!!
KUCHI-HA!
FEINT RIGHT!!
ARRGH!
SLASH
SLASH

OKAY!
WE'VE GOT THEM!!
tumble
Oof!
Gah!
DRAG
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!
I KNOW THAT!
huff
GROWL
GRRR

SFX: CUT
TAKE...
THIS!!
Nooooowl
I GOT IT!!

!
SHOCK
HISS
HISS
HISS
GAH!!
SL
AM
LUNGE
WHAT!?
KUCHI-
HA!
KON!

GRAB
WHOOSH
SHIT!
IT TOOK HER!!
AND IT'S GETTING AWAY!!
STOMP
!!
SHOCK
SHINSHU-CHAN!!
!
DASH

rustle
BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE.
YOU CAN RUN...
HIZANE-SAN!
GRRR
WATCH
FLOAT
THIS SORT OF THING IS MY SPECIALTY.
I'LL TRAP IT WITHIN THESE FOUR WALLS.
WITH THIS,
whisper
whisper
GOOD WORK, YOU THREE!
THANKS TO YOU, I CAN KEEP IT FROM ESCAPING!

NEXT IS YOUR TURN!
sigsig
sigsig
HERE I GO.

ORI-GAMI ...?

blow
Fold.

sli de

?

!!

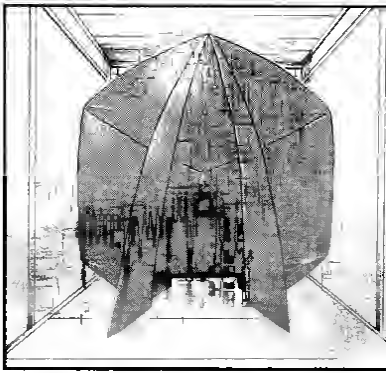
Fold.
Fold.

whoosh
GRR!?
Fold.
Fold.
whoosh
BLINK
Fold.
WTF!?
whoosh
Fold.
whoosh

bounce
AND IT'S DONE!

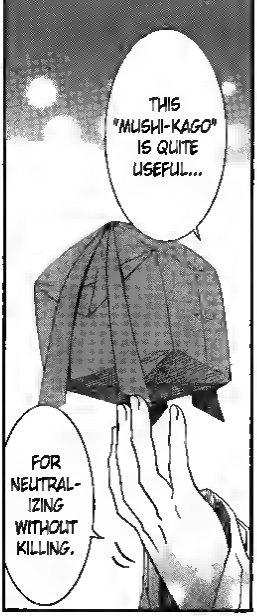
gently,
gently,
blow

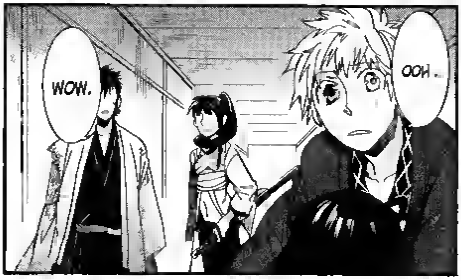
hiss
WAH!



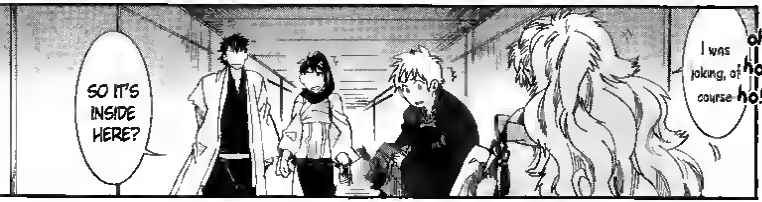
IT'S IN HERE.

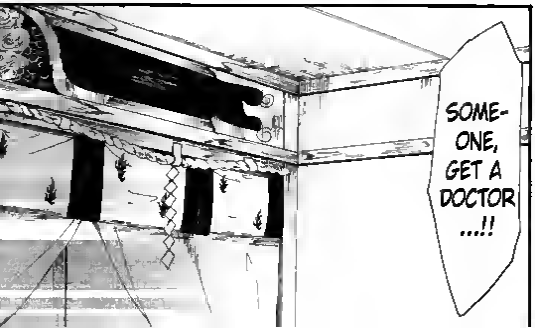
THE NUE...
DASH
SHIN-SHU-CHAN!


THIS "MUSHI-KAGO" IS QUITE USEFUL...
FOR NEUTRAL-IZING WITHOUT KILLING.


OOH.
WOW.

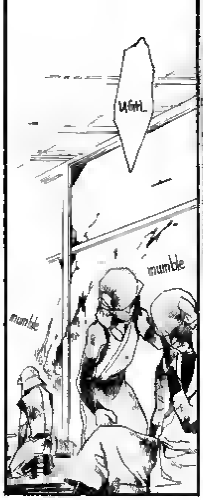
OH, UH, I AL-READY KNOW HOW TO FOLD ONE
I think so
Ohoho~
giggle
bounce
bounce
giggle
Oh-? It's actually very simple to fold
If you like, I can teach you!


SO IT'S INSIDE HERE?
I was joking, of course
oh ho ho!


SOME-ONE, GET A DOCTOR ...!!

THAT'S RIGHT
GASP

SASAKI-DONO!
SASAKI-SAN!


UGHH..
mumble
mumble

HANG IN THERE!
HI... ZA...
!?
OH MY --

HUH?

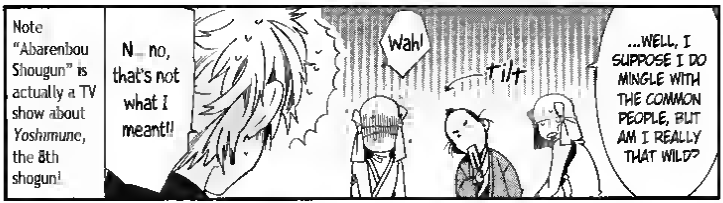
DON'T --
ugh

DON'T WORRY, THE BLEEDING HAS SLOWED.
HI ZA ME..

IS_ HIS LORD-SHIP_
SAFE_?
HE'S FINE. RIKUGOU-DONO SAVED HIM.
……
"HIS LORDSHIP" = "THAT ESTEEMED PERSON"
"GOVERNMENT REPRESEN-TATIVE" + "MY LORD"
sparkle
sparkle
THINK
THINK
hm
m
THINK
THINK
THINK
GASP
SHOCK
SOMEONE SERIOUSLY IMPORTANT!!
=
YES, IN TRUTH, I AM...
Oh?
whisper whisper
Hizame-san_?
Um... do you mean that guy with the mole is...

THE 14TH SHOGUN, TOKUGAWA IEMOCHI.
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
WELL, THEY CALL ME THE SHOGUN, BUT I'M NOT THE ONE WHO WIELDS REAL POWER.
THAT HAS BEEN SEIZED BY MY GUARDIAN, YOSHINOBU-DONO.
*Ken
*Kuchiha
A...
A...
A...
Oh?
PERHAPS I'M JUST A PUPPET...

fwoosh
HA HA HA HA
SHOCK
kyaa!
A...
"ABARENBOU SHOGUN..!!!"


Note "Abarenbou Shougun" is actually a TV show about Yoshimune, the 8th shogun!
N_ no, that's not what I meant!!
Wah!
Tilt
...WELL, I SUPPOSE I DO MINGLE WITH THE COMMON PEOPLE, BUT AM I REALLY THAT WILD?

WEIRD ...
shaaaare
PERFECT
shaaaare
SO THIS IS THE UNWRITTEN PAGE, THEN?
HE'S A STRANGE ONE!
HA HA HA!

That it hurts
They look so alike when they laugh...
Because of that mole,

SA-SAKI...
DON'T WORRY, I'M FINE.. SOME-HOW.
MY LORD..
IT'S MY FAULT.. THAT YOU WERE EXPOSED TO SUCH DANGER.
AH, IT'S ALRIGHT.

MY FAULT.
BUT.. THIS IS ALL..

...
SASAKI, YOU TALK TOO MUCH.
sigh

MONEY CAN'T BUY A SHOW LIKE THIS!
IT'S BEEN QUITE AN EXPERI-ENCE.

GAH!?
SLAP
SLAP
THWACK
SLAP
THWACK
SHOGAF
THWACK
NOW,
THAT'S MUCH BETTER!
eek!
Sasaki-san!?
shake
shake
Shake
!!!
IT SEEMS THAT EVERYTHING IS TAKEN CARE OF.
WELL DONE.
smile
hiss
hiss

SFX: *LOOM*

Hakone presents

amatsuki 61

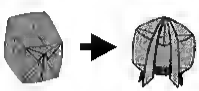
Mitsuhisa Shimotsu

translation & adaptation

TRANSLATOR'S NOTES AND HISTORICAL MISCELLANY

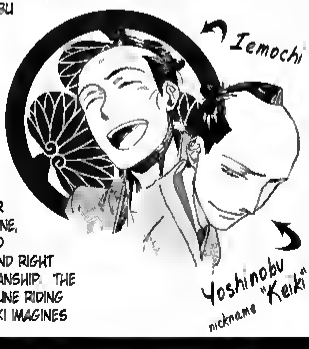
PAGE 2: CHITOSE SAYS THAT SHE CAN ONLY BE "HUMAN" FOR SUOU, BUT THE KANJI FOR "HUMAN" ARE GLOSSED WITH "CHITOSE." IS IT SIGNIFICANT? HELL IF I KNOW. EVERYTHING IS SIGNIFICANT IN THIS MANGA.

PAGE 17: A "MUSHI-KAGO" IS A SMALL ORIGAMI BOX USED FOR KEEPING INSECTS. IF YOU WANT TO MAKE YOUR OWNFOR CATCHING BUGS OR NUES OR WHATEVER, THERE'S A PATTERN HERE: WWW.GEOCITIES.JP/RIVERVILLAGEKYO/PAGE123.HTML



PAGE 20: TOKUGAWA IEMOCHI RULED FROM 1866 TO 1866 AS THE SECOND-TO-LAST SHOGUN. DURING HIS REIGN, THE UNITED STATES FORCED RELATIONS WITH JAPAN (THE FIRST MAJOR CONTACT WITH FOREIGNERS IN OVER 200 YEARS SAVE FOR EXTREMELY LIMITED TRADE WITH THE DUTCH) AND IEMOCHI'S GOVERNMENT WAS SEEN AS WEAK AND UNABLE TO PROTECT JAPAN FROM FOREIGN INVASION. EVENTUALLY, TENSIONS BETWEEN SAMURAI LOYAL TO IEMOCHI AND THOSE LOYAL TO THE EMPEROR ERUPTED INTO CIVIL WAR. IEMOCHI DIED IN 1866 AT THE YOUNG AGE OF 20 DUE TO NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCY - UPPER-CLASS JAPANESE OF THAT TIME PERIOD ATE ONLY WHITE RICE, WHICH LACKS THE VITAMINS FOUND IN WHOLE GRAINS. SO MANY PEOPLE DIED THAT IT ACTUALLY LED TO THE DISCOVERY OF VITAMINS!

PAGE 20: TOKUGAWA YOSHINOBU BECAME THE 15TH AND FINAL SHOGUN AFTER IEMOCHI'S DEATH. HOWEVER, HE RULED FOR LESS THAN TWO YEARS - IMPERIAL FORCES SOON OVERTHREW HIS GOVERNMENT. THE 13TH SHOGUN, IESADA, DIED AFTER A SHORT REIGN AND LEFT NO HEIRS, SO IEMOCHI AND YOSHINOBU HAD BOTH BEEN NOMINATED AS SUCCESSORS. POLITICAL WRANGLING BY THE POWERFUL SAMURAI II NAOSUKE PUT A YOUNG IEMOCHI ON THE THRONE AS A PUPPET RULER AND LEFT YOSHINOBU UNDER HOUSE ARREST. BUT WHEN II NAOSUKE WAS ASSASSINATED, YOSHINOBU QUICKLY MANUEVERED HIMSELF INTO THE POSITION OF "SHOGUN'S GUARDIAN." HE MANAGED TO SEIZE POWER, BUT ALL THIS POLITICAL DRAMA DESTABILIZED THE TOKUGAWA DYNASTY EVEN FURTHER. YOSHINOBU WAS FORCED TO RESIGN.

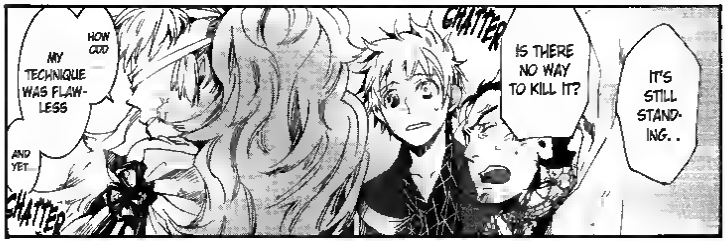


PAGE 21: "ABARENBOU SHOGUN" ("WILD SHOGUN") IS AN EXTREMELY POPULAR TV SERIES THAT'S BEEN AIRING SINCE 1978. IT STARS THE FAMOUS ACTOR MATSUDAIRA KEN AS TOKUGAWA YOSHIMUNE, THE 8TH SHOGUN. YOSHIMUNE WOULD GO UNDERCOVER AS A FIREMAN/GANGSTER AND RIGHT WRONGS WITH HIS INCREDIBLE SWORDSMANSHIP. THE OPENING THEME SONG FEATURES YOSHIMUNE RIDING AROUND ON A HORSE, WHICH IS WHAT TOKI IMAGINES

Chapter 62:
The Mugwort That Grows Among The Hemp, Part 6

SHUDDER
SHU
SHU
.....
SHUDDER

DAMN YOU!
WE'LL STOP YOU!
CHATTER CHATTER
PLEASE STAY BACK!
SASAKI-SAMA! MY LADY!
WHAT?
IT CAN STILL MOVE!?


HOW ODD
MY TECHNIQUE WAS FLAW-LESS
AND YET
CHATTER
CHATTER
IS THERE NO WAY TO KILL IT?
IT'S STILL STAND-ING..

reach
reach

.....?

turn
HIZAME!
QUICKLY, USE YOUR ORIGAMI AGAIN!
YES!

whoosh
SMACK
IT DIDN'T WORK!?
WHAT!?
DID IT GET STRONGER SOMEHOW?
IMPOSSIBLE!
IF IT'S A DEMON, IT SHOULD FALL TO THAT TECHNIQUE!

!!!

GIVE ME BACK..
SHIN-SHU..
MUST PRO-TECT..

IT ATTACKED SASAKI AND MYSELF!
THAT THING'S A NUE!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
SHOCK
WHAT IF..
WHAT IF IT'S NOT A DEMON?
BECAUSE WE WERE NOT AWARE OF THE NUE, AND BECAUSE IT SUCCESSFULLY PASSED ITSELF OFF AS THE PRINCESS, WE WERE CAUGHT UNPREPARED..
THAT THING CONCEALED ITSELF IN THE FORM OF THE HOLY PRINCESS AND HAS BEEN WAITING FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK
THIS WAS A PART OF TEITEN'S RESET.

NO, THAT WAS..
THAT WAS BYAKU-ROKU'S BODY!

BUT ISN'T THAT THE SAME THING THE YAKOU WAS DOING OUTSIDE!?
WHAT ABOUT THE REAL GINSHU'S BODY..!!
DO YOU MEAN THAT GIANT SNAKE OUTSIDE?

ISN'T THAT...
THE BODY OF THE HUMAN GINSHU-SAN...
WHO DIED... IN THE FIGHT WITH BYAKU-ROKU?
THE YAKOU COULD HAVE TAKEN IT WITH NO ONE KNOW-ING...
AND USED IT...!!
!!!
HIZAME-SAN TRAPPED THE NUE IN HER BOX...
BUT WHAT IF... SOME OF GINSHU-SAN'S SOUL REMAINED IN THAT BODY!?
BUT...
BACK THEN...

HE LOST HIS ARM ...!!
FIZZLE
FIZZLE
I WONDER...
IF THAT BODY COULD BE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE?
WHAT!?
BUT RIGHT NOW...
IT'S JUST A MOVING CORPSE.
STAGGER
tremble
tremble
STAGGER
blink

!
!
BRO-
THER?
!
STAY
BACK!
!!
STAGGER
YOU
HAVE
TO...
RUN
SHIN
SHU
SHU
drip
SHIN
BRO-
THER?
!

RUN AWAY!
B...
NOW!
BRO-THER ...
THERE'S BLOOD
YOU'RE... BLEEDING...
WHY...
GASP
!!
WHOOSH

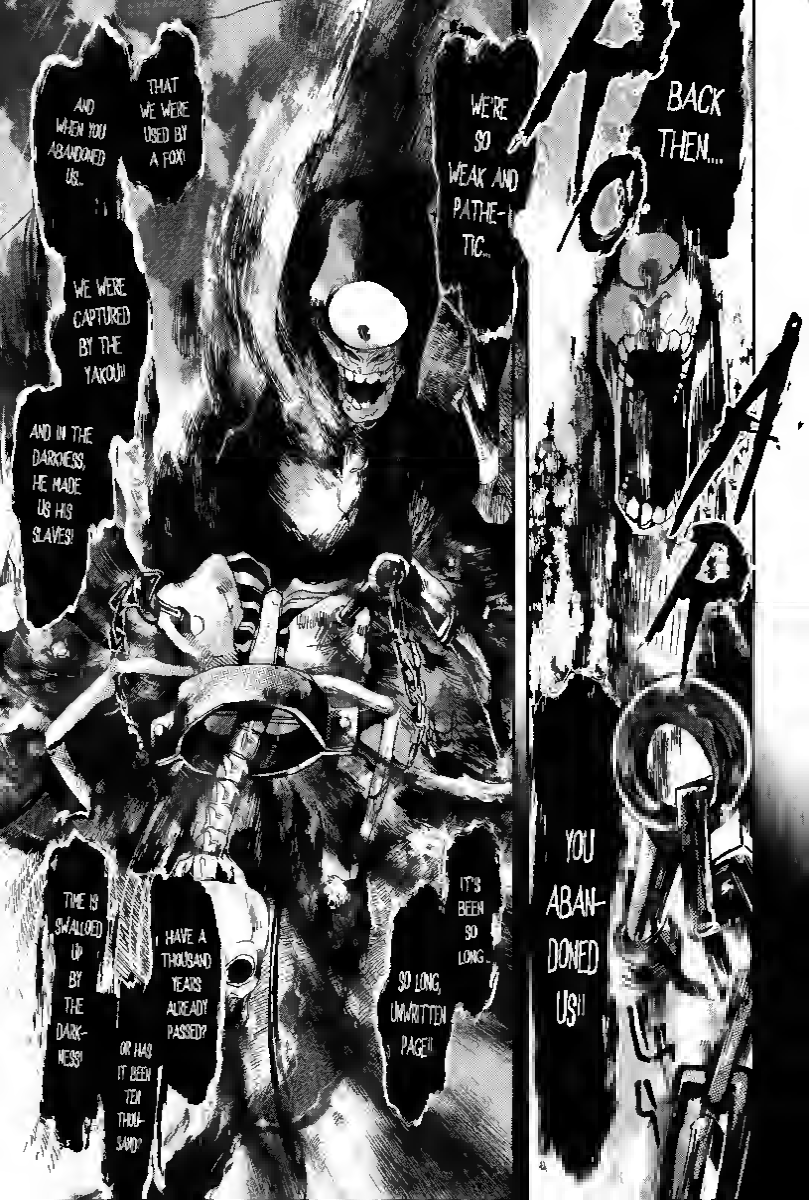
SHOOSH...
THAT GIRL...
CAN'T ACCEPT A WORLD THAT DOESN'T HAVE YOU IN IT.
SO...
TO FIX THE BREAK SHE MADE,
THIS WORLD WAS CREATED
WHOOSH
no!
what?!
shin!
STOP!!
SHINSHU-CHAN!!
no!
why?
SHU!

WAAAH!!
SFX: "BOOM"
NOOO!!

WH..
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
WE'RE BEING SUCKED IN!!
STAY BACK!
THIS IS VERY DANGEROUS!
YOU MUST LEAVE THIS PLACE AT ONCE!
AHHHHHH!!!
YOU'LL BE KILLED!
...AH!!
SFX: WHOOSH
AHH
MY LORD!
EVERY-ONE, JOIN HANDS!
AHHH
AHH
MGG
MGG
MGG

SHIN-SHU-CHAN!!
GIN-SHU-SAN!!
DON'T GO...!
GRAB
UN-WRITTEN PAGE?
SO YOU WOULD TAKE OUR HAND,
HAHA!

LEER
HOW ABOUT NOW?
WILL YOU LET GO AGAIN?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN US?
HAVE YOU FORSAKEN US?
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
HA HA HA! HOW CRUEL!
WHAT!?
GASP
WHEN WE WERE JUST CAUGHT UP IN THE MADNESS OF ONE LITTLE FOX, YOU HEARTLESSLY ABANDONED US!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, LITTLE SISTER?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN US!?
SHO
YES!
YOU'RE THE DEMONS FROM BACK THEN!?
.....


BACK THEN....
YOU ABAN-DONED US!!
WE'RE SO WEAK AND PATHE-TIC...
THAT WE WERE USED BY A FOX!
AND WHEN YOU ABANDONED US...
WE WERE CAPTURED BY THE YAKOU!
AND IN THE DARKNESS, HE MADE US HIS SLAVES!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG...
SO LONG, UNWRITTEN PAGE!!
I HAVE A THOUSAND YEARS ALREADY PASSED?
OR HAS IT BEEN TEN THOU-SAND?
TIME IS SWALLOED UP BY THE DARK-NESS!

IT WAS FATE THAT WE SHOULD FIND YOU HERE!!
WH. . WHAT?
THAT WIN-DOW...
SO WE WENT THROUGH IT.
WHY?
RATTLE
RATTLE
A GREAT WINDOW OPENED IN THE DARKNESS.
RATTLE
BUT WHY ARE YOU HERE NOW...!?
WAS MADE BY THE YAKOU?
hiss
hiss
hiss
hiss
hiss
WAIT!!
GINSHU-SAN!!
SHINSHU-CHAN!!
OH?
SO YOU'LL SAVE THEM THIS TIME?
ALL WE HAVE LEFT IS THE PITIFUL POWER OF A FOX SPIRIT...
HAVE YOU HIDDEN THE KOLU THEY?
SWEEP
IT'S JUST LIKE BACK THEN.
THAT FOX WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T ABANDON US!!
THE ONLY ONES YOU WON'T SAVE?
WHY!?
WHY!?
WHY ARE WE...
RATTLE
RATTLE
I...

THAT'S NOT...
I WAS JUST,..
SHUT UP!!
ARE YOU GOD?
ARE YOU BUDDHA?
WHY SHOULD YOU BE THE ONE WHO DECIDES WHO GETS SAVED?
ARE YOU SO IMPORTANT?
WE NEVER WANTED TO BE ENSLAVED BY THE YAKUO!
WE HATE THE DARK-NESS!
THAT FOX SPIRIT WAS INSANE.
BUT AT LEAST SHE HELPED US!
WILL YOU HELP US?
UN-WRITTEN PAGE?
YOU HELP HUMANS!
IF YOU WON'T SAVE US, THAT FOX SPIRIT WAS ALL WE HAD!
WHY?
WHY CAN'T YOU SAVE US ALL?
WHY!?
WHY!?

HELP HIM!?
THEN WHY DON'T YOU...
SLASH
KUCHI-HA!!
WHY ARE YOU SO GODDAMNED SLOW, YOU IDIOT!!?
COME ON, BREAK FREE!
WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE!!

!!
YANK!
GR
AB
LET GO...
BUT...
SHINSHU-CHAN AND..
SHOVE
SHOVE
WE'LL DEAL WITH THEM LATER!
FOR NOW, YOU'VE GOT TO...
YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY NOW, UNWRITTEN PAGE!
WHAT MAKES US SO DIFFERENT?
I WANT TO FIGHT THE YAKOU TOO. JOIN YOUR
WHY CAN'T WE BE FRIENDS?
KUCHI-HA!!?
GAH!!
HE

IF YOU WANT TO SAVE HER,
HOW CAN I BREAK CHAINS LIKE THAT!!?
RATTLE
DON'T SAY YOU CAN'T DO IT!
JUST DO IT!!
RATTLE
RATTLE
WE MUST GO, WE MUST GO!
OH NO, THE WINDOW IS CLOSING!
HELP US, UNWRITTEN PAGE!
RATTLE
BREAK THESE CHAINS!
RATTLE
RATTLE
RELEASE!
IF YOU WANT TO FREE THIS WOMAN!
DO IT...
YOU HAVE TO SAVE US TOO!

WILL IT BE YOU..?
OR WILL IT BE HER?
MAKE YOUR CHOICE!!
IF YOU INSIST THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO..
THEN YOU CAN GET DRAGGED DOWN WITH US!
THE WINDOW IS CLOSING!
UGH!
MAKE YOUR CHOICE!
NOW!!
Y.. YOU BASTARDS!!
GRRR
YOU CAN HAVE ME - JUST LET KUCHIHA GO!!
OKAY, I GET IT!
.....!!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, I'M NOT SOME KIND OF OMNIPOTENT GOD!!
GASP
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT THE YAKOU, AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO HELP YOU! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!!
YOU CAN TAKE ME, BUT LET ME TELL YOU THIS·
HAHA!
WITH THIS WE CAN..
WE WILL FIND A WAY TO USE IT!!
YOU IDIOT!
RATTLE
HAHA HAHA!
ONCE WE HAVE YOUR BODY..
THAT DOESN'T MATTER!
HOWL

KUCHI...
YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT!
BACK THEN,
YOU PANICKED THERE TOO!
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
WHY AREN'T YOU RUNNING?
YOU'RE SO WEAK!
YOU SUCK!
YOU'RE PATHETIC!
WHY AM I SO PATHETIC?
WHY DO I NEVER KNOW WHAT TO SAY?!
YOU'VE NEVER CARED...
WHETHER SOMEONE IS A HUMAN OR A DEMON.
YOU JUST TRY TO HELP EVERYBODY!
I'M KINDA EMBARASSED...
I LET GO OF YOUR HAND BACK THERE
YOU REMEMBER!?
K.
KUCHI-HA!!

I STARTED FEELING LIKE I HAD TO PROTECT YOU.
BUT SOME-HOW...
K...
MAYBE I'M GOING SOFT.
FLASH

PROTEC-
TING
YOU...
IS MY
JOB!
SHOCK
!!
DAMN
IT!!
SFX: SLASH
K...
KUCHIHA!!
YOU'RE
TEN
YEARS
TOO
EARLY.
TO EVEN
THINK
ABOUT
RESCU-
ING ME!

KUCHI-
HA!!

Hanami presents

amatsuki 62

SFX: WHOOSH
THE AIR STARTED SWIRLING AROUND SHINSHU-CHAN...
SPIRALLING TOWARDS AN OPENING SO TINY IT LOOKED LIKE A SPECK OF DUST...
EVERYTHING WAS SUCKED TOWARDS THAT POINT...
AND IT WAS ALL...
WHOOSH
THE YAKOU'S DOING.

Chapter 63: The Mugwort That Grows Among The Hemp, Part 7

AND AS IT PULLED EVERYTHING IN, THE HOLE GOT BIGGER AND BIGGER...
IT WAS LIKE EVERY-THING IN THE WORLD WAS BEING SUCKED INTO THAT BLACK HOLE...
OBJECTS
hiss
hiss
hiss
PEOPLE!
SHE WAS...
!
EVERY-THING.

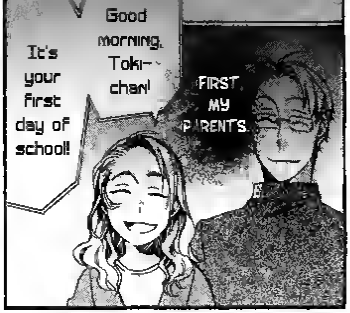
TOKI!!
RUN!
KUCHI HA...
step

suck
suck
IT'S JUST LIKE BE-FORE...
WHAT IS THIS PLACE . !
THE MIST IS SO THICK...
WHO!
WHOSH
WHOOSH
WHINGE
!
...TOK!!?
KUCH!...
reach...
HA!!
I TOLD YOU TO RUN!
YOU IDIOT!!

I CAN HEAR HER VOICE.
JUST A LITTLE FURTHER..!!
DON'T DO THIS!
reach
reach
IF I COULD JUST REACH... A LITTLE MORE...
INSIDE MY HEAD ...!!
YOU IDIOT
reach
RUN!
I TOLD YOU TO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
YOU CAN YELL AT ME LATER!!
STRETCH
JUST GRAB MY HAND!!
hiss
hiss
hiss
YOU IDIOT, THERE'S NO USE!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
YOU STUPID, SELFISH IDIOT!!
WHY IS SHE STILL BEING PULLED IN!?
!!

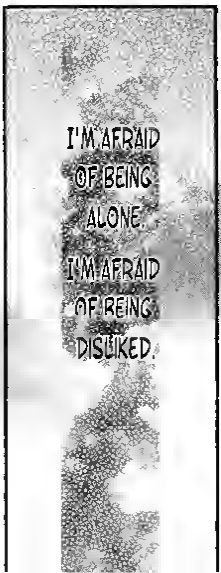
I'M WEAK...
I'M PATHETIC...
I'M AN IDIOT!
BUT COME ON, KUCHIHA! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!!!
I...
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE...
ANY MORE PEOPLE THAT I CARE ABOUT!
TOKI!?
I NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO TELL ANYONE HOW I FELT...

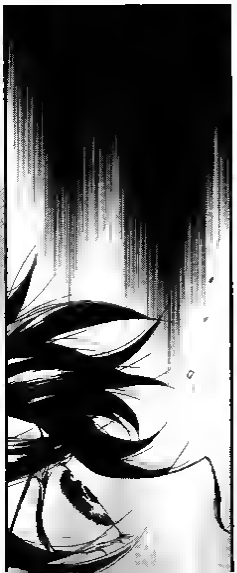
THEN, THOSE TWO...
But I don't know how to make friends...
You can't make smiles if you don't have friends, nee?
GAH!
HO HO HO HO
HA HA HA HA


It's your first day of school!
Good morning, Toki-chan!
FIRST MY PARENTS.

I NEVER TOLD ANYONE HOW I REALLY FELT.

BY SENIOR YEAR, YOU PROBABLY WON'T REMEMBER ME.
I ACTED CLUELESS TO HIDE HOW AFRAID I WAS OF BEING ALONE.....

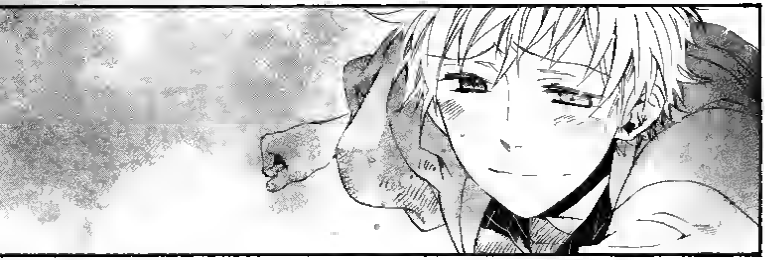

I'M AFRAID OF BEING ALONE.
I'M AFRAID OF BEING DISLIKED.



...I WANT US TO STAY TOGETHER ...!

EVEN BEFORE WE SEPARATED, I'D ALREADY CLOSED MYSELF OFF...

I COULD NEVER SAY THOSE WORDS...



SFX: *BITE*
AH!
...!!
.....
WHOOO
!?
!!
SH

Splatter
SHE'S HURT ...?
WINCE
KU-CHI... HA!?
GRRR
TOKI!
ROAR
GRRRR
OH, YEAH.
THE INU-GAMI ...
IT WAS INSIDE HER...
IS THIS... IT'S TRUE FORM !?
MAYBE... IT'S GOING WILD...
BECAUSE OF THIS WEIRD MIST...
MAYBE THAT'S WHY..
IT ATTACKS ANYONE WHO GETS CLOSE..
TO KUCHIHA ..
Where
SHAKE
EVERY-ONE IS..
GRRR

.....!
glow
!!
GAH!!
SFX: *TOSS*

TOKI...
!?
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
glow
WHAT'S...
THAT...?
TOKI!!

BANG
KUCHI-HA!!
KUCHI-HA!!
BANG
TOK!!
K... KUCHI-HA ...!!
!?
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
DAMN IT...!
WHAT'S GOING ON!?

HUH ...?
SO YOU CAN TALK TO YOUR PARENTS EVERY DAY WITH THAT THING?
THAT'S PRETTY NEAT...
SIZZLE
YEAH.
BUT TVS ARE REALLY HIGH-TECH THESE DAYS YOU KNOW?
THEY CAN EVEN REPRODUCE STUFF LIKE TEMPERATURE AND SMELL.
YOU CAN HARDLY TELL IT'S NOT REAL.

JUST LIKE BEFORE...

I COULDN'T REACH FAR ENOUGH...

HUH.
I DUNNO ABOUT THAT.
SIZZLE
REA-LLY?
WELL, FOR INSTA-NCE..
TAKE THIS RICE.
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
IF YOU SEE IT AND HEAR IT COOK-ING..
YOU CAN ALMOST TASTE IT.
YEEEAH!!
Mmm! That is GOOD!
How GULP
BUT STILL...
!!
SO... I GUESS IT JUST DOESN'T WORK FOR FOOD?
stir
stir
IT WON'T FILL YOUR BELLY THAT WAY.
bounce
RUMBLE
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

SOMETHING ON A SCREEN CAN SOUND GOOD, LOOK GOOD, AND EVEN SMELL GOOD.
THEY CAN EVEN MAKE A SCREEN FEEL WARM IF YOU TOUCH IT.
IT CAN REPRODUCE ALMOST ANY SENSATION.
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT, JUST LIKE YOUR STOMACH, CAN'T BE FOOLED.
SIZZLE
stir
WHAT'S THAT?
?

THIS!
point
YOUR HEART CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE.

SO...
DO YOU GET IT NOW?
rub
rub
rub

YEAH.
...
YOU CAN TALK TO SOMEBODY...
YOU CAN EXCHANGE WORDS...
YOU CAN EXCHANGE FEELINGS...
BUT YOU CAN'T FOOL YOUR HEART...
Sigh
!
I JUST... PRETEND IT IS.
IT'S REALLY NOT THE SAME.
Pat
B
BUT

OKAY, TOKI!
CRY THOSE TEARS RIGHT OUT!!
HUH!?
POKE

...
BE-CAUSE I...

IT'S POISON FOR THE SOUL.
IT'LL MAKE YOU GO ALL BITTER
blink

YOU BOTTLE IT ALL UP AND CRY ABOUT IT ON THE INSIDE.
BUT THAT'S NO WAY TO LIVE, IS IT?
YOU'RE ALWAYS WORRIED THAT PEOPLE WILL THINK YOU'RE SELFISH
SO YOU DON'T TELL ANYONE HOW YOU REALLY FEEL.

YOU CAN BE A LITTE BIT SELFISH.
YOU CAN SAY WHAT YOU REALLY FEEL.
...AND ONCE YOU BREAK IT,

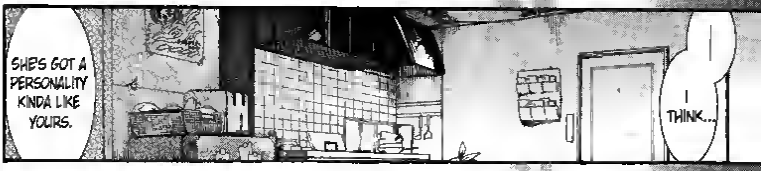
YOU'VE GOTTA LET IT ALL OUT!!
YOU'VE GOTTA BREAK THROUGH THAT MASK!
TEARS..
TEARS CAN'T BE BOTTLED UP!

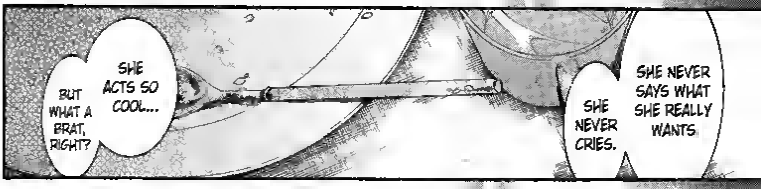
buahahahaha
SIZZLE
SMOKE
grin
WAAAHHHHH!!
GAAAHH!!
IT'S BURNING!!
IT'S BURNING!!
AND ONCE YOU CAN DO THAT,
YOU'LL BE A REAL MAN.
HEY, TOKI.
Sooo! It's on fire...!!
WAAH!!
WAAH!!

WHAT!?
PFFFT!
toh ho ho
ho ho ho ho
ho ho
?
Um. she's pretty, but she's weird

YEAH?
SO, UH, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF CHITOSE?

MAN, YOU DON'T HOLD BACK, DO YOU, KID?
haha
haha
BUT... YOU MAY BE RIGHT!


I THINK...
SHE'S GOT A PERSONALITY KINDA LIKE YOURS.


SHE NEVER SAYS WHAT SHE REALLY WANTS.
SHE NEVER CRIES.
SHE ACTS SO COOL...
BUT WHAT A BRAT, RIGHT?

SO...

IF IT TURNS OUT THAT SHE'S CRYING ON THE INSIDE TOO,
I WANT YOU TO HELP HER OUT.
I COULDN'T DO IT...
SO I WANT YOU TO BE THERE FOR HER IN MY PLACE.
She and I
Will always be waiting for you.

gasp
MY NECK ...?
YES! JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!
NOW THAT RIKUGOU-SAN IS AWAKE, WE NEED TO MOVE HIM!!
YOU THERE WITH THE FEATHERS!! CAN YOU CARRY HIM WITHOUT JOSTLING HIM AROUND?
OH, RIGHT..
THE DOG GOD MUST HAVE BIT ME.
gasp
WAIT.
WHY WON'T YOU MOVE?
YOU'D BETTER NOT DIE!
WHAT IS IT, TOKI?
gasp
OI, TOKI!!!
DON'T YOU DARE CLOSE YOUR EYES!
RIKUGOU-DONO!! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
SHOUT
RIKUGOU-SAN!! JUST HOLD ON!
RIKUGOU-SAN, PLEASE DON'T STRAIN YOURSELF!
YOU'VE JUST BEEN SERIOUSLY INJURED!
THAT THING TOOK A BITE OUT OF YOUR NECK!
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
EVERY-ONE...
DON'T TRY TO TALK, YOU IDIOT!
COUGH
SHOU ...?
gasp

THE WHOLE SHRINE
GOT SUCKED INTO THAT HOLE
AND VANI-SHED.
!!!
.....
.....
.....
YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE YAKOU, RIGHT?
..WHO CARES ABOUT THE YAKOU?
WHAT ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE AND ALL THE DEMONS WHO COULDN'T MAKE IT OUT?

WAIT.

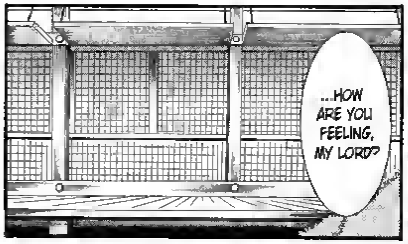
LET'S GO, HU-MAN!
YOU'LL HAVE TO KEEP PUTTING PRESSURE ON THAT WOUND!

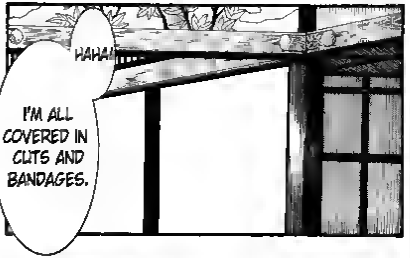
WHAT HAPPENED TO KUCHI-HA?
THE DOG GOD ATT-ACKED YOU..

...KANZOU!
HE'S NOT TO BLAME FOR THIS!
IF YOU MUST BLAME SOMEONE, BLAME ME!
I COULDN'T PROTECT KUCHIHA FROM THAT BLACK MIST...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
FROM THE OUTSIDE, EVEN YOU COULDN'T HAVE DISTINGUISHED THE DOG GOD FROM THE OTHER DEMONS!!
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE TRYING TO FIND WATER IN SAKE!
AI-NEZU!
GIVEN THE SITUATION, RIKUGOU IS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD HAVE SAVED HER!
KUCHI...
COUGH
GULP
RIKUGOU-SAN!!
COUGH
I'M SORRY!
DON'T LISTEN TO ME!
YOU'LL WORSEN YOUR INJURIES!
TCH!
KANZOU!! THAT'S ENOUGH!
I'LL SAVE HER!
GASP
GASP
I'LL...
HU-MAN!?
SHOCK
KUCHI-HA...
RIKU-GOU-SAN!?

I'LL...
SAVE HER!!
BACK THERE.
I KNOW I HEARD HER SAY...
"I'LL WAIT FOR YOU."
I'LL SAVE YOU, KUCHIKI-HA.
I'LL SAVE YOU.
LET'S GO, HUMAN.
sigh

I'M SORRY...
BUT I PROMISE I'LL COME BACK.
SO PLEASE WAIT FOR ME...


...HOW ARE YOU FEELING, MY LORD?


HAHA!
I'M ALL COVERED IN CUTS AND BANDAGES.

THERE'S NO POINT...
...IN HIDING THIS FROM YOSHINOBU
HE'S PROBABLY HEARD ALREADY.
OH?
BUT WHAT WILL HE SAY?

SO, BACK TO THE MATTER OF THE TWO HOLY PRINCESSES AND THE WOMAN WHO USES THE POWER OF THE DOG GOD...
sigh
!
THIS IS BETWEEN HE AND I, SO IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS!
huff
I DON'T REALLY CARE!
HM.
ALL THE GAME PIECES WE'D ASSEMBLED TO FIGHT TEITEN HAVE BEEN SNATCHED AWAY...
TO SAY THAT WE'VE PUT ALL OUR FAITH IN THE UNWRITTEN PAGE?
I SUPPOSE THIS IS A BAD TIME...,
HEH.
WELL, HE'LL JUST HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT, THEN.
ha ha ha
HAVEN'T ALL OF OUR PLANS BEEN "UNWRITTEN" TOO?
IS THAT REALLY SURPRI-SING?
HA HA
IT DOES SEEM THAT WAY

BUT SASAKI, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S MORE FUN THIS WAY?
THAT BOY IS LIKE A BLANK SHEET OF PAPER...
I'll be waiting for you...
I WONDER WHAT SORT OF STORY HE'LL WRITE...?
...Right, Tokidoki?

Hakuhi presents

amatsuki 63.

in cooperation with

Shinobu

translation & editing

"We were born to play."

"We were born to be happy."

Chapter 61: Scattering Millet

EVEN WHEN WE BECOME ADULTS, WE YEARN TO FEEL AS WE DID WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN.
EVER SINCE THE THESE WORDS WERE WRITTEN ALMOST A THOUSAND YEARS AGO, "PLAY" HAS BEEN SEEN AS THE LIGHT THAT ILLUMINATES THE FUTURE.

YOU COULD USE THIS TO CONTROL A COMPUTER WITH BRAIN WAVES INSTEAD OF A MOUSE
IT'S PART OF MY COLLECTION
THESE THINGS ARE VALUABLE ANTIQUES THESE DAYS!
IN THE EARLY 21ST CENTURY, MACHINES LIKE THIS WERE USED TO DETECT BRAIN WAVES.
WANT TO SEE?
SO IT'S NOT LIKE WE COULD CREATE "NEWTYPES" LIKE IN ANIME!
OF COURSE, ORDINARY PEOPLE DON'T HAVE CONSCIOUS CONTROL OVER THEIR BRAIN WAVES
AND BY ASSIGNING A KEY TO THAT DATA, YOU CAN USE IT FOR INPUT...
BY READING THE ALPHA AND BETA WAVES, YOU CAN DETECT THE MOVEMENT OF THE EYES AND MUSCLES.
WE'RE NOT LIKE THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM OR ANYTHING.
USING THIS TECHNOLOGY TO DETECT THE SIGNS OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IN A NEWBORN BABY...
LIKE,
FOR INSTANCE,
BUT THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF THINGS WE CAN'T DO.
THIS TECHNOLOGY WAS CREATED FOR ENTERTAINMENT.
FOR "PLAY."

THAT I NEEDED TO OPEN THE DOOR TO "EVOLUTION."
THESE PURPOSE-LESS MACHINES WERE THE KEY...
Chapter 64: Scattering Millet

talk
talk
HA
HA
HA

IF I JUST HAD SOME BEER AND CIGARETTES, I'D HAVE NOTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT!
talk
talk
HEY, THIS GRUB AIN'T BAD!
HAHA, THAT'S IT?
talk

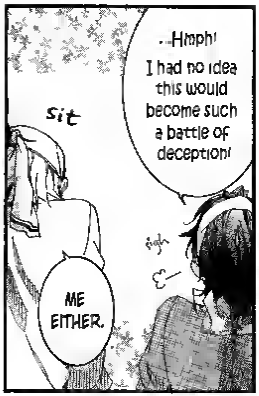
YEAH, THE TOBACCO TAX KEEPS GOING UP TOO...
talk
IT'S MURDER, MAN!
BEER IS TOO EXPENSIVE!
I'VE BEEN CRAVING A DRINK ALL DAY - AND THIS JUST AIN'T CUTTING IT!
talk
HA
HA
JUST GO BUY SOME FROM A VENDING MACHINE!

SHOUT
HEY, EVERY-BODY!
YOU ALL WORKED HARD TODAY!
SO COME ON, LET'S EAT!
YOU DID A GREAT JOB!

May I sit here?
smile
AONIBI! WHAT'S WITH THAT OUTFIT?
If it's so bad, then why don't you give up smoking?
HUH?
YOU MUST BE NEW HERE.
THAT POLO SHIRT DOESN'T FIT
talk
talk
nod nod
chew chew
Oh, yes, i'm new!
REALLY?
WELL, IT'S GOOD THAT YOU'RE HANGING OUT WITH THAT GUY.
HE'S PRETTY HELPFUL.
EVEN IF HE AIN'T MUCH TO LOOK AT
HEY!!
HA HA HA
SO, UH, AONIBI, ARE YOU DOING HEAVY LABOR TOO?
Oh no, I just wanted to see what Hashira san was up to.
So I disguised myself!
HUH?
whisper
I think you're fitting in quite well!
whisper
I DO OKAY.
whisper
UNLIKE A CERTAIN SOMEBODY, I'M ACTUALLY CAPABLE OF ACTING LIKE A NORMAL GUY...
GLARE
GLARE
GLARE
BUT I'M NOT DUMB ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT YOU.
Haha haha~
GIGGLE

talk
I HEARD THAT HE GOT YELLED AT BY THE SUPERVISOR, AND HE JUST STORMED OFF!
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED?
FUKAGAWA?
HUH?
WHERE'D HE GO?
HEY, HAVE YOU SEEN FUKAGAWA LATELY?
OOH. WHAT A DUMBASS
talk
HM?
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM, BRO.
Hashita-san?
SHIT... AGAIN?
stand
HA HA HA
YEAH, HE'S KINDA LIKE A JUVENILE COP, ISN'T HE?
PFFT
Ooh, he sounds like he's really thoughtfull
talk
THERE ARE A LOT OF YOUNG, TOUGH GUYS AROUND THIS PLACE.
BUT FOR SOME REASON, HASHITA LOOKS OUT FOR THEM.
talk
Alright, you can turn off the grill
IN THIS CAFETERIA, IF YOU DON'T RUSH TO LINE UP WHEN IT'S TIME TO EAT, THERE MIGHT NOT BE ANYTHING LEFT WHEN YOU GET THERE.
SO HE ALWAYS SAVES SOME FOOD FOR FUKAGAWA.

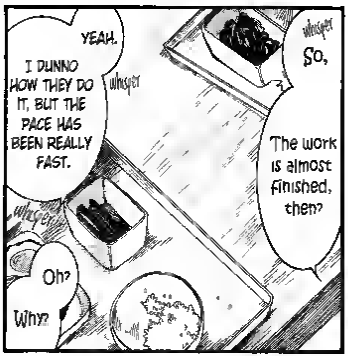
SO?
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ADVERTISING.
IT JUST CAME UP IN CONVERSATION.
whisper
whisper
H...
Hashita-san! You've been telling people who you really are!
whisper
Still!! Why are you telling people that!
WHAT'S WRONG, BRO?
DON'T WORRY, HE'S AN EX-COP.
GOT A CRIMINAL RECORD?
EX.
NOW HE'S JUST AN OLD FART CONSTRUCTION WORKER.
SPITTER
WH-
WH-
WHAT?!
HA HA
BUT IT'S TRUE!
GRR
DON'T CALL ME AN OLD FART, YOU OLD FART.
SMACK!
IF I GET CAUGHT TELLING A BOLD-FACED LIE, NOBODY'S GONNA TRUST ME.
SO I MIX IT UP.
AROUND HERE, GUYS WHO HAVE BEEN ON THE FORCE FOR A LONG TIME GET RESPECT!
NOT THAT I'M OLD.
FIVE PARTS TRUTH, THREE PARTS LIE, TWO PARTS EXAGGERATION - IT WORKS!!
IDIOT.
THESE GUYS KNOW ME, AND THEY AIN'T STUPID.
DUMB-ASS.
whisper
But if people know you used to be a cop, that might arouse their suspicions...


sit
...Hmph!
I had no idea this would become such a battle of deception!
ME EITHER.

huff
pout
!
IF ANYBODY IS GONNA "AROUSE THEIR SUSPICIONS," IT'S A WEIRDO LIKE YOU!
YOU NEVER KNOW - THERE COULD BE PEOPLE WHO REPORT BACK TO HEADQUARTERS AROUND HERE.

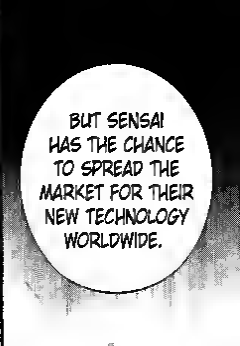
talk
talk
talk
HEY, HOW LONG DO YOU THINK THIS CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL LAST?
HUH?
THE "EDO PERIOD TRAVELING EXHIBIT" IS OPENING PRETTY SOON.
SO I GUESS WE'D BETTER FINISH THE INTERIOR FAST!
THAT'S FOR SURE

whisper
WELL, IT'S GOTTA BE DONE IN TIME FOR THE OPENING DEBUT, I GUESS.
Ahh, I see.

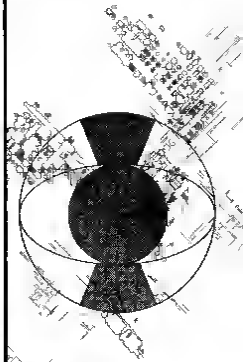

whisper
YEAH.
I DUNNO HOW THEY DO IT, BUT THE PACE HAS BEEN REALLY FAST.
whisper
So,
The work is almost finished, then?
Oh?
Why?

RIGHT NOW, THE CABINET IS IN ITS THIRD YEAR OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES, AND THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF UNRESOLVED ISSUES
THE GOVERNMENT IS DESPERATE TO FIND A PRODUCT THAT HAS BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL APPEAL.
Aha!
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SUMM
LOOK. UP THERE
Ah, so that's why they're in such a rush!
I GUESS
NEXT MONTH, JAPAN'S TAKING PART IN A MAJOR 12-COUNTRY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AND THEY WANT TO UNVEIL IT THERE
YEAH. SO THE GOVERNMENT'S PUSHING FOR THIS THING TO GET DONE.
I see now why this project is sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology...
...YEAH, YOU WOULD KNOW. FREAK.
Sorry!
Historical video games have an international otaku following!
Gasp!
Oooh, but foreigners love things like that!
Geisha! Harakiri! Ninjas!
BUT I DUNNO WHY THEY CHOSE AN EDO PERIOD THEME TO REPRESENT "JAPAN APPEAL"...

SHOUT
WHAT? FOR REAL!? NO WAY!!
IF THEY DID, THE REVENUE THEY'D LOSE JUST FROM KIDS COMING ON FIELD TRIPS WOULD BE HUGE.

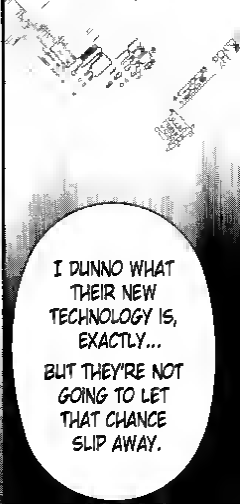

BUT SENSAI HAS THE CHANCE TO SPREAD THE MARKET FOR THEIR NEW TECHNOLOGY WORLDWIDE.

Talk
YOU KNOW THE CONSTRUCTION IS 80% COMPLETE, RIGHT?
WHAT'S GOING ON?



I HEARD THEY WERE GOING TO USE THEIR OWN EMPLOYEES
BUT... WHAT ABOUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES?
Talk
Talk

WHAT!?
BUT THERE'S A RUMOR THAT THEY'RE GONNA FIRE ALL HIS PART-TIME LABORERS!!
GASP


I DUNNO WHAT THEIR NEW TECHNOLOGY IS, EXACTLY...
BUT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO LET THAT CHANCE SLIP AWAY.

talk
talk
I GUESS WE WON'T HAVE MANY DAYS LEFT.
WELL, AS LONG AS I GET PAID ON TIME, I DON'T CARE.

talk
YEAH, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD OF A COMPANY FIRING ALL THE WORKERS BEFORE THE WORK IS DONE!
WHAT THE ...!?
THAT'S CRAZY!

talk
talk
sigh
I THOUGHT MAYBE I'D HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO EXAMINE SOME OF THE TECH SYSTEMS ..
SO FAR, WE'VE ONLY DONE CONSTRUCTION AND DECORATION WORK
They're handling a huge project like this... with their own workers?

THOROUGHLY ENJOYED HIMSELF
But apart from etiquette and customer service drills, I didn't really collect any information.
grin
Oh!
I had a great time! I got to cosplay and drink tea and eat cakes!

MAN...
THIS JOB'S OVER, AND I'VE GOT NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
I didn't even get to see their system, much less touch it! What a waste of time!

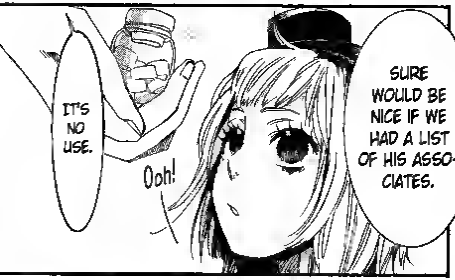
A FIGHT!!
YEAAH, FIGHT!!
FIGHT!!
A FIGHT!!
Waah!
CRASH
DIE!!

KUWATA SUOU, BORN IN KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURE, DIED SEVEN YEARS AGO.
AS FOR PERSONAL HISTORY, HIS FAMILY MOVED TO TOKYO WHEN HE WAS FIVE, AND HE ENTERED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT THE AGE OF SIX
HE STARTED GETTING IN TROUBLE BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH, AND BY THE TIME HE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL. .
A real problem child!
HE WAS ALREADY HANGING OUT IN A BIKER GANG.
AROUND THAT TIME IS WHEN HE MET HASHITA-SAN.
HASHITA-SAN ACTUALLY ARRESTED HIM TWICE
ALL IN ALL, HE GOT ARRESTED FOUR TIMES
BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE HE STOPPED SHORT OF ANY VIOLENT OFFENSES.
!!
I PULLED TOGETHER THAT DATA YOU WANTED ON KUWATA SUOU, BUT...
IT'S NOT ANYTHING WE DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW.
AMONG HIS FRIENDS, HE WAS KNOWN AS THE KIND OF GUY WHO WOULD GIVE YOU THE SHIRT OFF HIS BACK.
SINCE HE COULD NEVER IGNORE ANYBODY IN NEED, HE HAD A WIDE SOCIAL CIRCLE.
BUT THEN HE BECAME A DELIVERY DRIVER FOR THE SENSAI COMPANY.
I THINK HASHITA-SAN MENTIONED THIS, BUT.. AFTER GRADUATION, HE BECAME A PRETTY WELL-KNOWN MOTORCYCLE MECHANIC
SO HE WAS A COURIER, HUH?

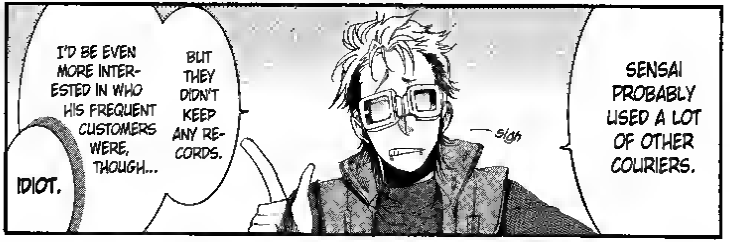
I DON'T KNOW WHY I SUSPECT THAT, BUT I DO.
WE HAVE NO DATA TO BACK IT UP, BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME HE WASN'T RUNNING A NORMAL DELIVERY SERVICE...
SQUEEK
IT DOES SEEM SKETCHY, DOESN'T IT?

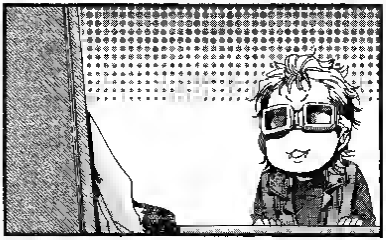
BUT I WONDER IF HE QUIT HIS OTHER BUSINESS WHEN HE STARTED WORKING FOR SENSAI?
POKE POKE
HMM... WELL, IT ALL FITS WITH WHAT HASHITA ALREADY SAID...

HE'D HAVE HAD TO KEEP IT HIDDED FROM SENSAI.
MAYBE, BUT THAT COULD BE AN ISSUE.
Here, Lily-chan, I got you a present!
THE GANG STUFF?


IT'S NO USE.
Ooh!
SURE WOULD BE NICE IF WE HAD A LIST OF HIS ASSOCIATES.

A GUY WHO'D GIVE YOU THE SHIRT OFF HIS BACK, HUH...?


IDIOT.
I'D BE EVEN MORE INTERESTED IN WHO HIS FREQUENT CUSTOMERS WERE, THOUGH...
BUT THEY DIDN'T KEEP ANY RECORDS.
sigh
SENSAI PROBABLY USED A LOT OF OTHER COURIERS.



IF SENSAI WAS THAT SLOPPY...
YOU'D BE OUT OF A JOB.
SMIRK

...BUT SHIRAAI-SAN, YOU COULD LET ME GO UNDERCOVER IN THE EDO-PERIOD THEME PARK!
DO YOU SERIOUSLY EXPECT ME TO SAY YES?
GLARE
It's almost open!

I guess that's no
ANYWAY, DON'T YOU HAVE WORK TO DO HERE?
ANY NEWS?

HERE, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
click
OH, YEAH... WELL, NOTHING CONCRETE, BUT I'VE GOT SOME THEORIES.

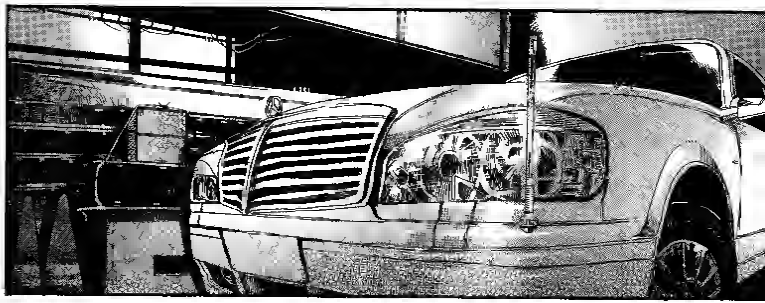
OH, SHIRAAI-SAN, I KNOW IT'S WRONG, BUT... I LOVE WHEN YOU TALK NERDY TO ME...
blush
KYAA
I'M LOOKING.
WHAT AM I LOOKING AT?
WHAT IS THIS SHIT!?
!
ZOOM
Dim ARR
Dim n
Dim check
ARR=Array(5,2,3,1,
MsgBox(ARR(0)&"
&ARR(2)&" "&AR
&ARR(4))
n= UBound(ARR)
For r=1 To n
check=False
For j=0 To(n-1)
THERE MIGHT BE THIRTY OR MORE MODULES WORKING TOGETHER
ON THEIR OWN, EACH MODULE IS USELESS.
I CAN'T REVERSE ENGINEER A SYSTEM FROM ONE PROGRAM
I CAN'T TELL WHAT IT DOES WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE REST OF THE SOFTWARE.
THIS IS JUST A SHELL SCRIPT
WELL... THE TRUTH IS...
okay, okay!
SMASH
I'm going to die
FOR INSTANCE, YOUR COMPUTER HAS ONE PROGRAM TO TURN THE FAN, AND ANOTHER TO CONTROL WIRELESS NETWORKING, AND A WHOLE BUNCH OF SHELL SCRIPTS TO TIE THEM ALL TOGETHER
?

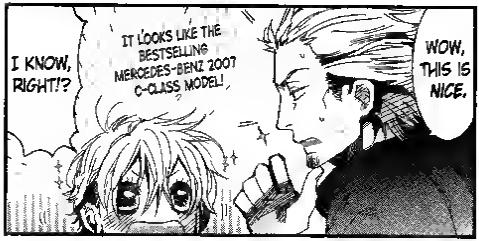
OKAY, MAYBE IT WOULD BE EASIER IF YOU IMAGINE THAT PROGRAMMING IS LIKE COOKING!
...? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IMAGINE THERE'S A SECRET RECIPE, BUT THE HEAD CHEF DOESN'T WANT THE ASSISTANT TO FIGURE IT OUT.
SO HE MIXES UP THE REAL INGREDIENTS WITH SOME THAT DON'T BELONG.
THE ONLY ONE WHO NEEDS TO KNOW THE REAL INGREDIENTS IS THE HEAD CHEF, SO HE CAN MIX THEM TOGETHER...
DO YOU FOLLOW ME?
SENSAI
This is how object pointers work!
NOT REALLY.
?
OBJECT POINTER STEW
AND FROM THAT, I HAVE TO RECREATE THE WHOLE SEQUENCE OF STEPS THAT THE CHEF USED TO MAKE THE RECIPE.
BUT... IF THERE'S SOMETHING BLOCKING ME, I CAN'T ACCESS ALL THE DATA IN THE SUB-FOLDERS.
SO YOU CAN THINK OF MY JOB AS PICKING STUFF OUT OF THE POT WITH A FISHHOOK.

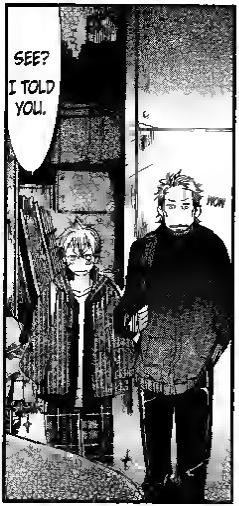
SO I SET IT UP SO THE HOOK WAITS QUIETLY...
UNTIL THE "TRANSFER" RECONNECTS.
THEN I SET IT UP SO IT REELS IN MY LINE DURING THAT FIVE MINUTE WINDOW.
YOU SEE, MY "FISHING LINE" AND "HOOK" MOVE ALONG DATA TRANSFER CONNECTIONS
BUT THE SYSTEM IS AUTOMATICALLY CONFIGURED TO CUT OFF CONNECTIONS AFTER FIVE MINUTES
OH, NO, IT'S STILL OKAY.
SO THAT MEANS YOU CAN'T GET THE DATA WE NEED?
YEAH, IT'S SORTA LIKE THAT. ANY-WAY,
grin
The "fishing line" connects to the memory! The "fishhook" is a virus!
...OH, SO IT'S LIKE A PARASITE.
THAT'S DISGUSTING.
CHITO
begi
HUH?
IT'S CALLED "CHITOSE?"
THIS IS THE DATA MODULE THAT MY "FISHING LINE" CAUGHT.
IT'S GOT A PRETTY WEIRD NAME FOR A PROGRAM, THOUGH...

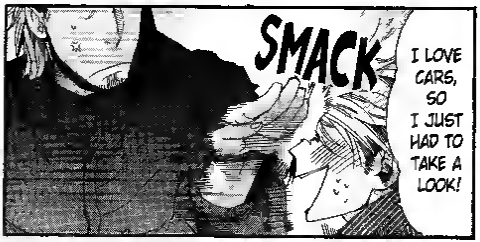
AH-
SHUKA
SHUKA
MAN...
I'M GETTING OLD...
I CAN FEEL IT IN MY BACK...
HAH...
GASP
SHOCK
FUKA-GAWA?

HEY, OLD MAN HASHITA!
I'M NOT OLD!
DAMN IT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
YOU MISSED WORK THIS AFTERNOON!!
WAS THERE ANY FOOD LEFT FOR YOU IN THE CAFETERIA?
... YEAH.
IF YOU CAME BACK TO EAT, THEN YOU SHOULDA CAME BACK TO WORK!!
GRR
GRR
BUT YOU RAN AWAY!
N..
NO I DIDN'T!
YES YOU DID!
DID NOT!!
I... I WAS REALLY GOING TO COME RIGHT BACK!
BUT..
BUT THEN I SAW A TOTALLY SWEET BENZ!!
IT WAS PARKED BEHIND THE CAFETERIA!




I KNOW, RIGHT!?
IT LOOKS LIKE THE BESTSELLING MERCEDES-BENZ 2007 C-CLASS MODEL!
WOW, THIS IS NICE.


SEE? I TOLD YOU.
WOW


SMACK
I LOVE CARS, SO I JUST HAD TO TAKE A LOOK!

SMASH
WAH!!
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN DITCH WORK!!
YOU'RE AN IDIOT!
You're mean!
JINGLE
whine
BUT...
HUH!?
DASH
PARK A SWANKY CAR IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
glance
WOULD SOMEBODY RICH...
DAMN IT.
SOUNDS LIKE THE OWNER'S COMING BACK.
JINGLE
JINGLE
NOW WHY...
OLD MAN?
...
GRUMP

SHOCK
I'VE DONE RATHER WELL FOR MYSELF, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
TOO NICE...
FOR THIS SORT OF NEIGHBOR-HOOD, DON'T YOU THINK?

!
WELL, YOU KNOW ...
YOU CAN'T ACHIEVE UNLESS YOU AIM HIGH.
THAT'S ALL I'M WORRIED ABOUT.
HASHITA SAN?
...!!
YOU UNDER-ST,AND, DON'T YOU?
HA HA
RIGHT?
HA HA
HA
!
That

SHOCK
No... it can't be him!
SFX: "CRASH"

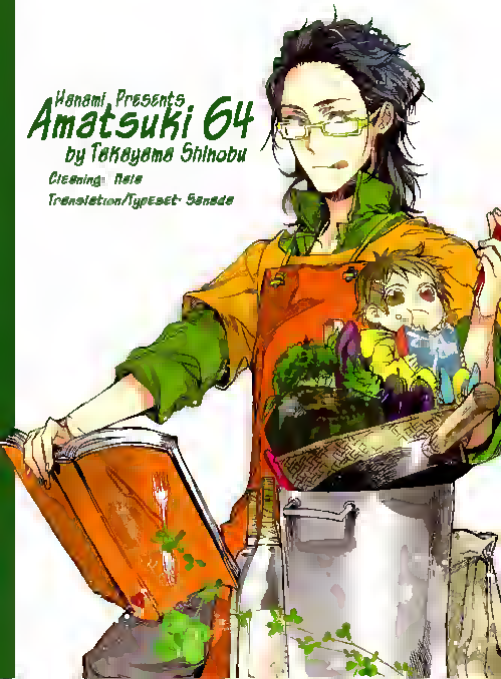
Wanami Presents

Amatsuki 64

by Takayama Shinobu

Cleaning: Rais

Translation/Typeset: Sanada



Translation Notes

Page 1

"We were born to play, we were born to be happy" is a line from the "Ryoujin Hishou," a Heian-period song collection. Even though the song was written hundreds of years earlier it was still popular in the 1800s.

Page 3

The title of this chapter, "Scattering Millet," or "kibarashi," is a seasonal word used in haiku poetry. When millet grains are allowed to overripen in the fall they explode and scatter their seeds everywhere

Page 16

In programming, data - numbers, text files, etc. - are called "objects," and they're stored somewhere in the computer's memory. Object pointers tell the program where the "object" is located. For intensive operations it's usually faster and easier for the program to reference the pointer not the object itself. That's how your computer keeps track of all the junk on your hard drive. If an object pointer becomes corrupted or lost the program might not be able to find the data but that doesn't mean it's been deleted!

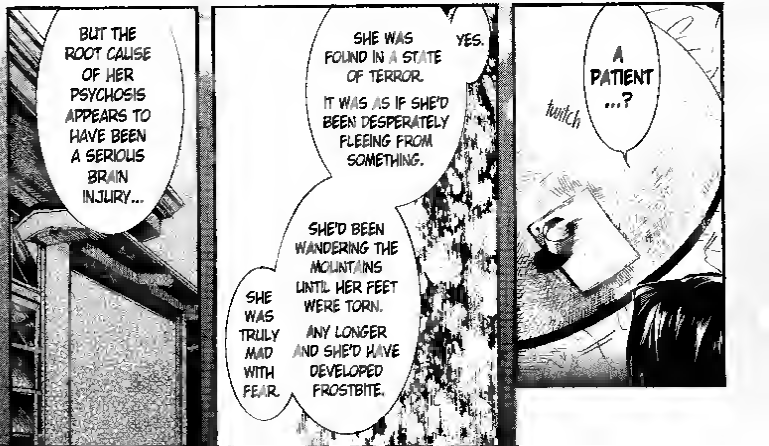
Chapter 65:
Spreading Clover

SL
AM
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I ASSUME YOU WANT ME TO REPORT ON THE INFORMATION I'VE GATHERED IN JAPAN, BUT...
WHY DID YOU CALL ME HERE, UNCLE?
ARE YOU JUST GOING TO SCOLD ME AGAIN?
MY DEAR, SWEET, NIECE.
YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAUTIOUS, BAI LAN.

I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO COME HERE SO I COULD CRITICIZE YOU.
...ALTHOUGH IT CERTAINLY IS TRUE THAT YOUR RECENT CLUMSY ACTIONS HAVE COST US SEVERAL CONNECTIONS.
YOU'VE CAUSED A HASSLE FOR THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY.
BUT THAT'S ALL WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE
...IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN YOU CAN TELL HIM THAT I BEG HIS FORGIVE-NESS
SO WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT?
WE ARE BOTH DEALERS IN INFOR-MATION.
TO-DAY,
I RECIEVED A MESSAGE FROM ONE OF YOUR ASSIGNED CLIENTS.
"THANK YOU, SHIRAAI-SAMA, BUT WHAT WAS LOST HAS ALREADY BEEN FOUND."
WHAT!?

BUT GIVEN THE CIRCUM-STANCES OF THIS CASE,
I THOUGHT IT BEST TO LOOK INTO IT MYSELF.
BUT WHY!?
THAT WAS MY ASSIGN-MENT!
CALM DOWN.
FORGIVE ME,
SLAM
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!
WHO TOLD YOU THAT!?

ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN.
AT THE MOMENT, SHE IS A PATIENT AT A RURAL CLINIC IN JAPAN.
THE "LOST ITEM" WAS A WOMAN BY THE NAME OF "ITOU CHIE"
tap
THAT'S WHY...
I TOLD YOU THAT WE WERE BOTH DEALERS IN INFORMATION.


BUT THE ROOT CAUSE OF HER PSYCHOSIS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A SERIOUS BRAIN INJURY...
SHE WAS TRULY MAD WITH FEAR.
SHE'D BEEN WANDERING THE MOUNTAINS UNTIL HER FEET WERE TORN.
ANY LONGER AND SHE'D HAVE DEVELOPED FROSTBITE.
SHE WAS FOUND IN A STATE OF TERROR.
IT WAS AS IF SHE'D BEEN DESPERATELY FLEEING FROM SOMETHING.
YES.
A PATIENT ...?
twitch

AT FIRST ...
SHE WOULD ONLY INCOHERENTLY MUMBLE A NAME OVER AND OVER. "URUSHIBARA, URUSHIBARA."
QUESTIONING HER WAS IMPOSSIBLE.
LIKE A MANTRA?
URU-SHI-BARA ...
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
IT'S AN UNUSUAL SURNAME. IT SHOULDN'T BE HARD TO TRACK THAT PERSON
WE CANNOT.
WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED SUCH TERROR...?
I PITY THAT POOR WOMAN.
THE JAPANESE POLICE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT HER SITUATION AND BEGAN AN INVESTIGATION...
BUT BECAUSE SHE WILL ONLY REPEAT THAT NAME LIKE A MANTRA, PROGRESS IS SLOW.
THAT WOMAN ...
WAS ONCE A STUDENT AT ONE OF JAPAN'S TOP NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES.
THAT WAS FIVE YEARS AGO.

WHEN YOU HEAR THE REST, I THINK YOU'LL UNDERSTAND.
!?
URUSHIBARA...
FOR SOME REASON, THAT NAME SOUNDS FAMILIAR.
I SEE.
HASHITA AKINOBU.
HE WORKS FOR YOU.
gasp
PERHAPS THAT WILL JOG YOUR MEMORY.
//
THAT'S... THAT'S RIGHT!
HE DID MENTION THAT NAME.
THAT SCRAWNY RAT OF YOURS...
ISN'T WORTH MY TIME.
I'VE BEEN AWARE OF THIS "URUSHIBARA" AND HAVE BEEN TRACKING HIM FOR SOME TIME.
UNCLE, I HAD NO IDEA THAT YOU WERE ACQUAINTED WITH MY HUMBLE SUBORDINATE...
I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW YOU KNOW EACH OTHER.
WHAT!?
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
IN FACT, HE IS AN EMPLOYEE OF OUR FAMILY'S RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.

!
ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
THAT MAN IS A CRIMINAL!
HE'S INSANE!
DID YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF MONSTER HE WAS WHEN YOU HIRED HIM!?
HE'S WHAT YOU WOULD CALL A "GENIUS."
AND HE'S BECOME ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSIBLE TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR BUSINESS.
I PERSONALLY SCOUTED HIM YEARS AGO.
I THOUGHT HE'D COVERED HIS TRACKS PERFECTLY AFTER LEAVING HIS MEDICAL WORK.
THOSE WHO TAKE THE FIRST STEPS ...
TOWARDS THE CUTTING EDGE OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS ARE OFTEN CALLED "INSANE."
GASP
THEY MUST CAST ASIDE THE MORAL PREACHING OF CIVILIZED SOCIETY IN ORDER TO MOVE FORWARD.
SHIRAI.
YOUR PAST TRANSGRESSIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF THAT
IS VERY IMPRESSIVE
FOR YOU TO EVEN DISCOVER HIS FOOTPRINTS..

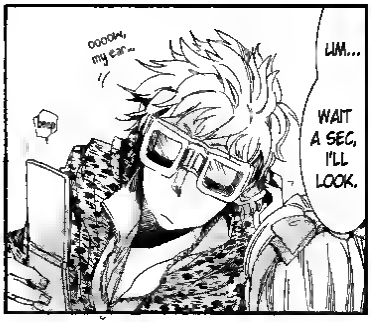
SHIRA-AI.
I'M NOT LOOKING FOR YOUR APPROVAL OR COOPERATION.
I ONLY ASK THAT WE SHARE INFORMATION.
THIS IS ALL THE INFORMATION I HAVE.
I UNDERSTAND.
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?
IF I HEAR ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT THIS "URUSHIBARA," I'LL REPORT TO YOU FIRST.
CRASH
THAT'S ENOUGH!!

MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET CAUGHT UP IN HIS MADNESS.
YOU KNOW ... THE HUNTER OFTEN BECOMES THE HUNTED.
I'VE ALWAYS SHOWN YOU PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT BECAUSE UP UNTIL NOW, YOU'VE BEEN USEFUL.
SHIRA-AI.
.....

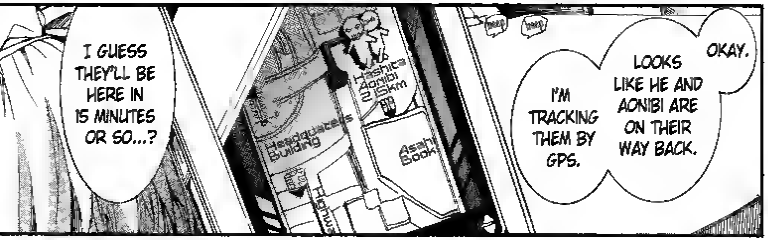
IF YOU DO, THEN...
I WON'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS TO THAT JAPANESE PET YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING.
YOUR JOB IS TO BE A CORPORATE SPY.
YOU STEAL TECHNOLOGY FROM THE JAPANESE.
YOU KNOW OUR FAMILY IS INVOLVED IN VARIOUS ILLEGAL ACTIVITES.
DON'T BE MISTAKEN ABOUT OUR FAMILY HIERARCHY.
MY R&D UNIT IS THE HEAD.
AND YOU ARE LITTLE MORE THAN A CLAW AT THE END OF AN ARM
DON'T THINK OF SCRATCHING BACK AT US
SLAM

You've reached my cell phone~ Who is this~?
I'm here~!
BLOWING MY COVER ON A CELL PHONE WOULD DEFEAT THE POINT OF GOING INCOGNITO!! CAN'T YOU TELL WHO I AM FROM THE PHONE NUMBER!? IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE CALLER, YOU SHOULDN'T PICK UP THE PHONE!! YOUR RISK MANAGEMENT SKILLS ARE TOO WEAK!!! I THOUGHT I COULD TRUST YOU!!
GAA
AAH
Pat
drip
drip
drip
ring
ring
ring
Uh, incidentally, only my closest associates know this phone number, so I was jus g a joke, y
I KNOW THAT!!
I JUST NEEDED TO VENT.
That's great!
YES.
..Um, Shiraai-san? I guess your meeting is over, huh?

Oh, really?
I guess your meeting didn't go so well, huh?
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!
IT WAS A ROUTINE BUSINESS MEETING, SO IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING COULD GO WRONG!
IT WAS JUST ANOTHER BORING, UNIMPORTANT MEETING THAT I SHOULDN'T HAVE EVEN BOTHERED GOING TO!
Uh, sorry I asked..


UM...
WAIT A SEC, I'LL LOOK.
Ooooh, my ear...
beep

!
IS HASHITA BACK YET?
I NEED TO TALK TO HIM.


OKAY.
LOOKS LIKE HE AND AONIBI ARE ON THEIR WAY BACK.
I'M TRACKING THEM BY GPS.
I GUESS THEY'LL BE HERE IN 15 MINUTES OR SO...?
beep
beep
Headquarters Building
Asahi Beach

ALRIGHT, THAT'S GOOD.
TELL THEM TO STAY THERE AND WAIT FOR ME.

THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL EVERONE.

I'VE GOT TO BUY SOMETHING LACY AND FRILLY AND CUTE.
HUH?
HUH? WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG?
In about two hours
OKAY.
?
WHEN WILL YOU BE HERE?
THEIR OUTFITS ARE THE RESULT OF SHIRAAI-SAN'S ATTEMPTS TO DE-STRESS.
Sparkle
I'M GOING SHOPPING TO GET SOMETHING LACY AND FRILLY AND CUTE FOR AONIBI AND LILY.
I'LL BE THERE IN ABOUT TWO HOURS.
Aha haha
I...
I get it (sort of)
Okay!
Have fun!
But... What are you getting for me...?
YOU HAVE NO APPRECIATION FOR FASHION
I SEE
WE'LL WAIT FOR YOU.
BEEP
CLICK

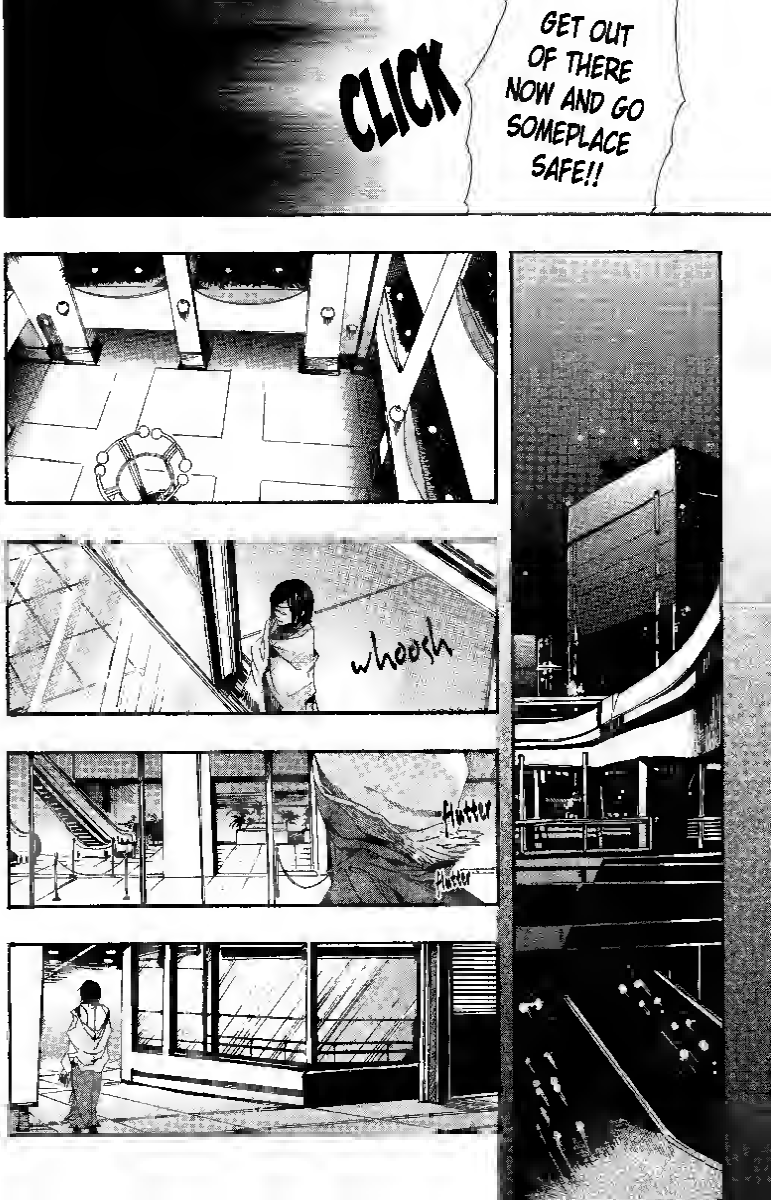
FIVE YEARS AGO...
I WAS WORKING ON A CASE INVOLVING AN EX-COP FROM THE JUVENILE BEAT...
AND I CAME ACROSS SOMETHING INTERESTING
I DON'T CARE HOW MANY PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES YOU KNOW!!
YOU DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING!
THE COP HAD FOUND THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR A HORRIFIC CRIME THAT SHOCKED THE COUNTRY.
WITH THE CRIMINAL'S DAUGHTER IN HIS ARMS, HE TOOK THE STORY PUBLIC.
THE REAL VICTIM, THOUGH, WAS THAT LITTLE GIRL.
AND BY THE THOUGHT OF THAT MAN AND THE LITTLE GIRL...
PEOPLE WERE FASCINATED BY THE SCANDAL...
YOU'RE INSANE!
IN WHICH WE TRANSCEND THE LIMITATIONS OF THE HUMAN BODY...
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
I'LL BE HIGHER THAN GOD.
WHAT HE SAW IN THAT PLACE.
I WISH I KNEW...
AND SO...
I HIRED HIM OUT OF SIMPLE CURIOSITY.

MAYBE IT'S GOOD THAT I SAID TO MEET IN TWO HOURS.
grumble grumble
MEAT BUNS...
SO HUNGRY...
HER NAME...
GOTTA CALL THE CLIENT...
GRUMBLE
THE MISSING WOMAN MIGHT HAVE SOME RELATION TO SENSAI, TOO...
WHAT WAS HER NAME..?
IF THE CLIENT COULD GIVE US MORE INFORMATION?
I WONDER...
type
RING!
GO.....

ring ring
CK

!?
Hashita-san and Aonibi-san just disappeared from the GPS monitor!!
For some reason, they both turned off their phones at the same time!
And after that.
WHAT!?
GASP
GASP
GASP
WAKASA-KUN?
IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN HALF AN HOUR SINCE I CALLED YOU...
SHIRAAI-SAN!!
GASP
GASP
GASP

I SUDDENLY GOT AN EMAIL FROM SENSAI HEAD-QUARTERS...
.....
BUT THE WEIRD THING IS, THE CONTENTS OF THE EMAIL WERE JUST A SINGLE URL!
THE LINK POINTED TO THE BREAKING NEWS PAGE OF A LOCAL ONLINE NEWSPAPER.
GASP
IT LOOKS LIKE MOST OF THE DOCTORS AND PATIENTS MADE IT OUT SAFELY,
BUT ONE CRITICALLY ILL PATIENT AND HER ATTENDING PHYSICIAN WERE KILLED.
YOU CAN READ THE WHOLE THING WHEN YOU GET BACK, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'VE GOT TO SEE...
THERE'S A REPORT THAT A SMALL CLINIC JUST BURNED TO THE GROUND!
The patient's name was "Itou Chie "
Shiraai-san... what the hell is going on here!?
I'M ON MY WAY!


CLICK
GET OUT OF THERE NOW AND GO SOMEPLACE SAFE!!
whoosh
Flutter
Flutter

RUSTLE

TAP

TAP

TAP

step

step

step

step

step
step

SHOCK
!?
step
step
thump
thump
thump
thump
Thank you for my baby!!

Now on to breaking news from our reporter Utsumi who is live at the site of a massive gas explosion
Gas Explosion Downtown To
There were nine offices using the building.
But thankfully the accident occurred late at night, so the building was unoccupied.
There are no reports of injuries
WOW, GAS EXPLOSIONS ARE RARE, AREN'T THEY?
HUH, I'D HAVE THOUGHT STUFF LIKE THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE THESE DAYS
talk
talk
LOOKS LIKE THE BUILDING WAS FILLED WITH SKETCHY MASSAGE SPAS AND STUFF LIKE THAT.
THOSE PLACES AREN'T VERY WELL MAINTAINED.
WELL, THAT'S THE SERVICE INDUSTRY FOR YA.
SCARY.
talk
talk
talk

SFX: *BOOM*
WHOOO
WHOOO

OKAY, EVERYONE.
YOUR TEST RESULTS ARE IN!
I'LL START BY ANNOUNCING THE NAMES AND SCORES OF THOSE WHO FAILED,
SO PREPARE YOURSELVES!
EEEEE!?
THAT'S CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT!
STOP YOUR WHINING!
DO YOU THINK YOUR RESULTS THIS TIME WILL BE ANY DIFFERENT THAN USUAL?
GRRRRR!!
I MIGHT AS WELL START WITH THE TRULY PATHETIC GRADES!
AND THE WORST SCORE BELONGS TO...
RIKUGOU TOKIDOKI!
FIVE POINTS!!
HOW IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE!?
GAH!!
SNICKER
WOW
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU!?
HOW IS IT THAT YOUR GRADES IN MATH AND LANGUAGE ARE FINE, BUT YOUR HISTORY MARKS ARE LIKE THIS!?
GRR
GRR
ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME LOOK LIKE A FOOL!?
BWAHAHA
No No No No !!!!
Or is he?

TADAAA!!
THE EDO BAKUMATSU TRAVELING EXHIBIT
SLAM!
YOU GET TO GO ON A MANDATORY EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIP OVER YOUR SPRING VACATION!!
THE EDO BAKUMATSU TRAVELING EXHIBIT! IT OPENS TOMORROW!
sparkle
HUH?
BUT I'VE ALREADY ARRANGED A PERFECT MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENT FOR THOSE WHO FAILED.
MY SPRING VACATION!!
What do you mean!?
WHAT!? No way
WHOOOOOOOOAAAA!!
That's just cruel.
Uwaahh you are so stupid.
What do you expect with your grades?
YOU CAN FEEL THE BREATH OF HISTORY ON YOUR SKIN AND IN YOUR BONES AND IN YOUR EYES!!
EEEEE!?
IT'S A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN LEARN BY EXPERIENCE!!
GUNUNU
THIS IS PERFECT FOR STUDENTS LIKE YOU WHO HAVE NO INTEREST IN HISTORY!
.....
Nakahara-san... well, that's no surprise.
PERFECT SCORE!
I'm just barely safe!
Haha~ 43 points!
Ne-moton?
GAH!
Nonizaka, you too?
Yeah, I could get 43
Yoshi-Zaki!?
SUCKS TO BE YOU, BRO, HAVE FUN STUDYING, RIKUGOU.
OH, I GOT 97 POINTS.

!!!
BEEP BEEP
090XXXX
BEEP BEEP
I only needed two more points to pass!!
:
:
SHUDDER
Momi-ji?
Sparkle
HAHA!
SHUT UP!!
I'M NOT LIKE YOU!
WHY COULDN'T I HAVE SCORED A LITTLE HIGHER!!
Yaaaaay!
You are a true friend!
AHAHAHA!!
EDO BAKUMATSU
The number you have dialed is not in service.
Please hang up and try again.
CLICK

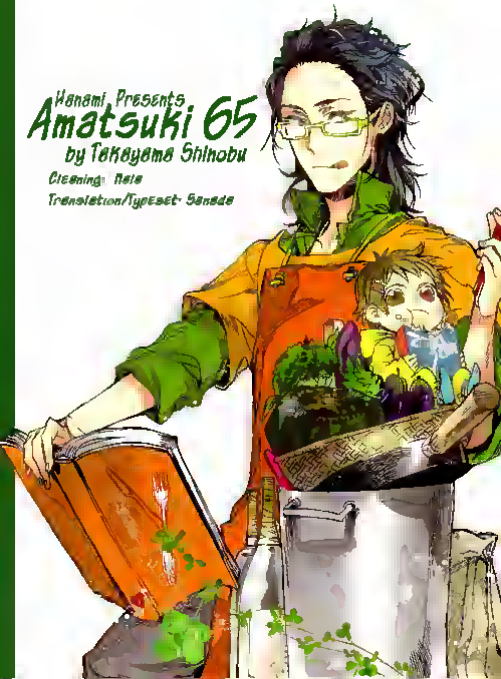
Wanami Presents

Amatsuki 65

by Takayama Shinobu

Cleaning: Rais

Translation/Typeset: Sanada



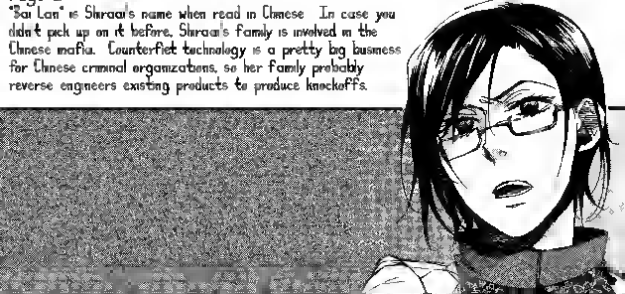
Translation Notes

Page 1

The title "Spreading Clover" refers to the bush clover plant, called "hagi" in Japanese. In flower language, hagi is associated with multiple meanings, "Facing forward," "being too shy to express oneself", and "anxiety."

Page 2

"Sai Lan" is Shiraai's name when read in Chinese. In case you didn't pick up on it before, Shiraai's family is involved in the Chinese mafia. Counterfiet technology is a pretty big business for Chinese criminal organizations, so her family probably reverse engineers existing products to produce knockoffs.



Chapter 66 Painted Camellia in Bud

Chapter 66
Painted Camellia in Bud

わうぐ

TWO WEEKS HAS PASSED SINCE THEN

buzz buzz buzz buzz

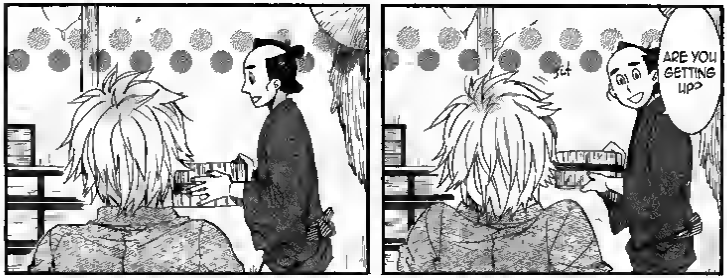
blink

blink

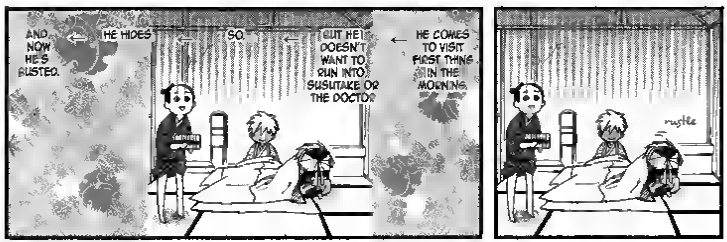
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
!!
blink
SLA
AM
WAAH, SUSUTAKE-SAN, THE WATER IS SPILLING!!
HEY, KIDDO!! HOW IS IT GOING!!? I BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING GOOD!!
weren't you just laughing the other day that you hadn't washed that kimono in 5 years?
!?
stare
IF I SQUEEZE IT THROUGH MY KIMONO, CAN HE STILL DRINK IT?
OH——!!
SMA CK
BUT I WENT THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE TO GET ICE COLD WATER...

AND WHERE DID YOU GET THE MONEY TO GO BUYING THINGS, ANYWAY?
steam
WHATEVER POSSESSED YOU !!?
PLEASE DON'T GO GIVING HIM REVER WATER FROM YOUR KIMONO WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE PHYSICIAN IN CHARGE!!
SNAP
Whoa!
Here, here, some money.
Hey, your things!
Oh man, I'm such a pain.
HUH? UH, IT WAS MINE...?
I've got to choice. Nobody else will give me anything.
HAVE A LITTLE SHAME, WOULD YOU!? AREN'T YOU EMBARASSED TO TAKE GIFTS FROM YOUR ENEMY!?
Hey, it was a gift! Refusing it would have been rude!
THAT'S A BOLDFACED LIE AND YOU KNOW IT!! YOU TOOK MONEY FROM HI-SAMA, YOU SLIMY MAGGOT!!
SFX GAAAAAAAH
sparkle
AND BESIDES WE'RE FRIENDS NOW, RIGHT?

I'M SO SORRY IT'S SO NOISY THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING
HEY, TOKI, GOOD MORNING
GAAAAAH! PUT THAT SWORD AWAY!!
SFX. SLASH CRASH


ARE YOU GETTING UP?

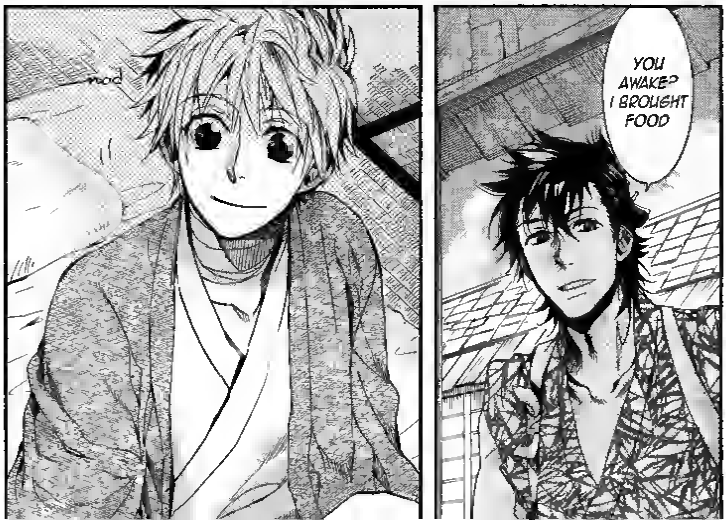
shock
GOOD MORNING TO YOU, TOO, TSUYUKUSA


AND NOW HE'S BUSTED.
HE HIDES
SO
BUT HE DOESN'T WANT TO RUN INTO SUSUTAKE OR THE DOCTOR
HE COMES TO VISIT FIRST THING IN THE MORNING
rustle

Now that you've been found, don't you think it's a little embarassing to be hiding like this?
SHUT UP!
laugh
Wouldn't it have been better to hide in the ceiling?
I ALREADY THOUGHT OF THAT, DUH!

SFX EXPLODE

YOU JUST HAVE TO BE A SMARTASS, DON'T YOU, HEIHACHI!?
HEY, DON'T CALL ME THAT!
WAH
WAH
open
TOKI?


YOU AWAKE? I BROUGHT FOOD

MAYBE THAT'S BECAUSE I WAS EXPOSED TO THAT SWARM OF DEMONS
THE INJURY TO MY THROAT WAS PRETTY DEEP,
AND I WAS IN BED WITH A HIGH FEVER FOR A WHILE.

AND THEN MID-SUMMER CAME.
buzz
buzz

TSUYUKUSA DIDN'T LEAVE MY SIDE
buzz
buzz

I GUESS EVERYONE WAS PRETTY WORRIED ABOUT ME

AND AS FOR EVERYONE ELSE..
!?

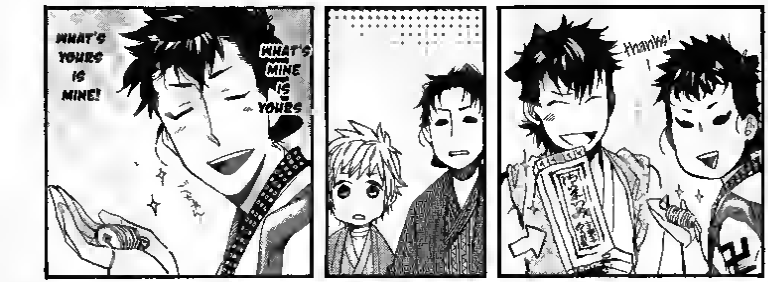
AND KON FUSSED OVER ME CONSTANTLY
HEY, TOKI, YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUTSIDE SO MUCH...
mod
mod

SFX SHOCK

IF YOU'RE BORED, I'LL PLAY A GAME OF SHOGI WITH YOU GUYS!
NOTE: SHOGI IS JAPANESE CHESS. PLAYED WITH SMALL WOODEN TILES
HEY, SUSUTAKE, NOBODY ASKED YOU TO BUTT IN! GO PLAY BY YOURSELF!
WHAT GIVES, MAN?
ALL THAT KID DOES IS SLEEP, SO HE AIN'T BUSY, IS HE?
(SOUNDS PRETTY LAME DOESN'T IT?)
HM.
WELL, I GUESS.
AM I RIGHT?
SO WE CAN GAMBLE ALL WE WANT, THEN?
OHOHO-
THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN!
PLEASE LET ME JOIN IN AS WELL
UGH!
GAH!
SO, RIKUGOU-SAN, ARE YOU FEELING WELL TODAY?
I THOUGHT I'D STOP BY AND BRING YOU SOME IMPORTED YOKAN JELLY
NOTE: YOKAN IS A SWEET, SOMEWHAT DRY JELLY DESSERT MADE FROM AZUKI BEANS AND BEANS. IT'S A SPECIALTY OF KYOTO (ALTHOUGH TODAY YOU CAN GET YOKAN ANYWHERE) AND IT LASTS PRACTICALLY FOREVER, SO IT'S POPULAR AS A GIFT.

EXPLANATION
IN THIS TIME PERIOD, SWEETS IMPORTED FROM KYOTO WERE AN EXTENSIVE, HIGH-CLASS ITEM.
CRACKLE
GRRRR
GASP
IMPORTED YOKAN JELLY!!
HEY! WHAT GIVES!? THESE AREN'T FROM KYOTO!
FINE, WE CAN END THIS RIGHT NOW...
I'LL KILL YOU!!
WAIT!
ha ha ha!
Who cares! it's all good!
IF YOU'RE UP AND ABOUT, YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY WITH US
HOW ARE YOU, RIKUGOU-SAN? EVEN WITH THIS FLEDGING SPARROW AND MANGY DOG CARING FOR YOU, YOU LOOK MUCH BETTER
DO YOU WANT ME TO WRECK YOUR HEAD-QUARTERS AGAIN?
HMPH
YEAH, RIGHT, IF HE GOES WITH YOU GUYS, HE'LL NEVER COME BACK
HUH?
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

they're cheap!
we can eat them all!!
Rustle
YUP.
THEY'RE REALLY JUST CHEAP CRAP


WHAT'S YOURS IS MINE!
WHAT'S MINE IS YOURS
Thanks!

きつね
FOX
PIPE

SFX CRASH

IT WAS NICE TO SEE HUMANS AND DEMONS INTER-ACTING WITH EACH OTHER
ドカーン
GAAH!!
HEY, WHAT DID I DO!?

I WAS LIKE A TRAFFIC LIGHT - AS LONG AS I WAS ALIVE, THEY WOULD STOP, BUT IF I DIED, THEY'D START FIGHTING AGAIN
I FELT SURE THAT THEIR UNEASY TRUCE WOULDN'T LAST.
WHILE IT'S TRUE THAT EVERYONE CAME TOGETHER FOR MY SAKE...
THAT IF I LEFT, SOMEHOW THE TENUOUS BONDS BETWEEN EVERYONE WOULD BE TORN APART.
AH
wheeze
AH...
I WANTED TO LEAVE, BUT I STARTED TO WORRY...

COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
!
THINKING'S NO GOOD FOR YOUR BODY
DON'T PUSH YOUR-SELF

good boy, good boy!
reach
pat pat
SFX SQUEEZE, PULL
rattle
NO ONE CAN ENTER SAKAGAMI SHRINE WITHOUT PERMISSION
THERE WAS MORE THAN ONE REASON WHY TSUYUKUSA-SAN STAYED WITH ME.
BUT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE...

she's like a wild boar!
well, they might have some trouble making it past this lady here...
of course she's much older
sigh

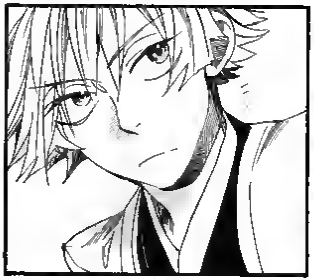
IF THEY GET IN LIKE BEFORE IT COULD BE DISASTROUS.
WE CAN'T HANDLE A DIRECT ATTACK.
BUT RIGHT NOW, THE FOREST AROUND SAKAGAMI SHRINE IS DANGEROUSLY UNSTABLE

THERE ARE WAYS THROUGH THE FOREST
QUIET, YOU IDIOT!!
It was more of a whisper! But it's still LOUD! WHAT IS THAT?

SFX GRRRRRR

IT'S NOT EVEN A "PATH" - IT'S BECOMING A DARK, DIRTY CESSPOOL
THE WAY TOWARDS THE SHRINE VALLEY IS ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS.
BUT THEY CAN'T JUST CARELESSLY TAKE ANY PATH THROUGH THE WOODS
NO MATTER WHERE YOU'VE GONE, THEY'VE BEEN ABLE TO FOLLOW YOU

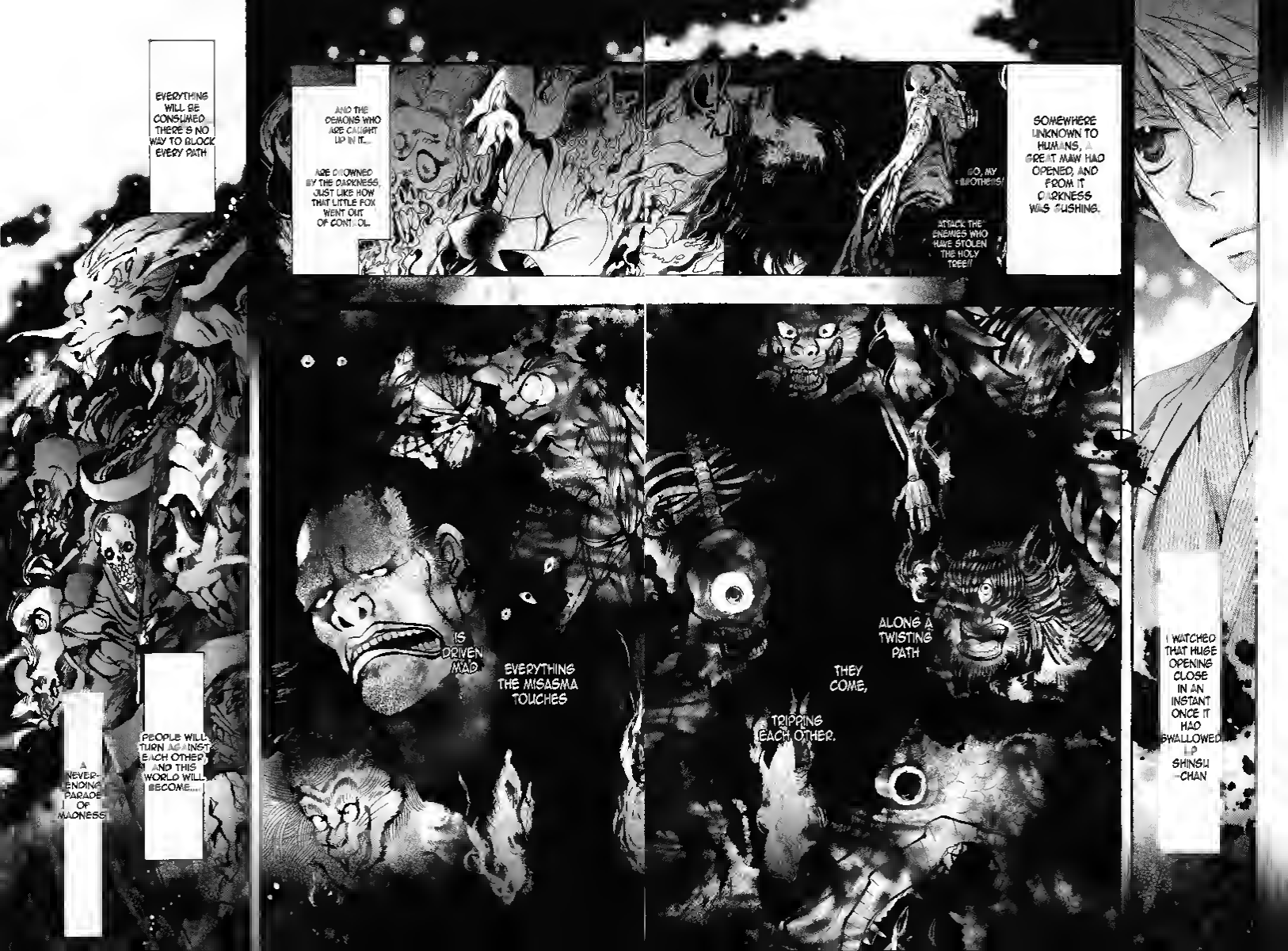
AND THEY ALL LOSE THEIR MINDS
ALL THE DEMONS LIVING THERE ARE BEING SWALLOWED UP...
IT'S LIKE THE SAME DARK MIASMA THAT APPEARED HERE IN THE SHRINE ARE STARTING TO CONSUME THE FOREST.



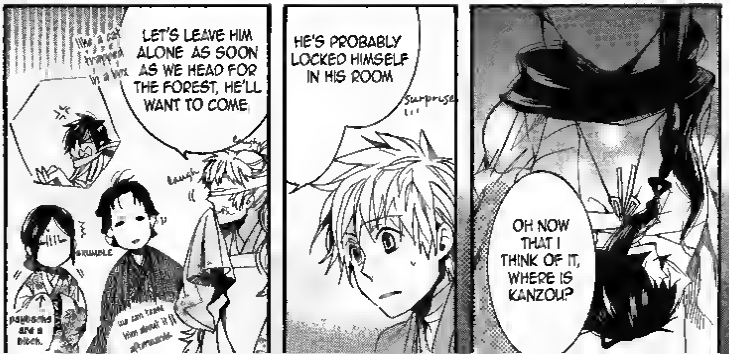
pat

SOMEWHERE IN THAT FOREST WAS A TREE
A TREE THAT HAD ONCE TURNED TO DARKNESS OUT OF LOATHING FOR HUMANS
TSUYUKUSA'S REAL FORM
IF THAT TREE WAS CONSUMED, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO HIM...?

That's my answer.
IF I COULD JUST BE STRONGER...
SFX CREAK
THE FOREST ISN'T THE ONLY PLACE THAT'S IN DANGER.
THE MIASMA IS DEVOURING THE FOREST AND SPREADING ALONG THE WOODLAND PATH MADE BY ANIMALS
BY THOSE PATHS, THE POISON WILL OVERTAKE THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.
WHEREVER THE PATHS GO, THE DARKNESS WILL FOLLOW
THE SEAL UPON THE UNDERWORLD WILL SURELY BE BROKEN...


SOMEWHERE UNKNOWN TO HUMANS, A GREAT MAW HAD OPENED, AND FROM IT DARKNESS WAS GUSHING.
GO, MY BROTHERS! ATTACK THE ENEMIES WHO HAVE STOLEN THE HOLY TREE!!
AND THE DEMONS WHO ARE CAUGHT UP IN IT... ARE DROWNED BY THE DARKNESS, JUST LIKE HOW THAT LITTLE FOX WENT OUT OF CONTROL.
I WATCHED THAT HUGE OPENING CLOSE IN AN INSTANT ONCE IT HAD SWALLOWED UP SHINSU-CHAN
THEY COME, ALONG A TWISTING PATH
TRIPPING EACH OTHER.
EVERYTHING THE MISASMA TOUCHES
IS DRIVEN MAD
PEOPLE WILL TURN AGAINST EACH OTHER AND THIS WORLD WILL BECOME...
A NEVER-ENDING PARADE OF MADNESS
EVERYTHING WILL BE CONSUMED THERE'S NO WAY TO BLOCK EVERY PATH

OF THIS PARADE WILL BE...
AND THE LEADER...
HE'S WAITINNG FOR ME.
HE CREATED...
THAT HOLE...
AND I JUST KNOW...


LET'S LEAVE HIM ALONE AS SOON AS WE HEAD FOR THE FOREST, HE'LL WANT TO COME.
I'm a cat trapped in a box.
RUMBLE
HE'S PROBABLY LOCKED HIMSELF IN HIS ROOM
Surprise!
OH NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, WHERE IS KANZOU?

I understand your frustation as well, but it is unwise to go forth into battle without a clear plan for victory
And unfortunately, I confess that we do not yet have everything figured out either...
And as for you, Pikusoli-dono...
Everyone is trying to ease my worries...
But...
This is probably going to hurt...
Ah——

HEY.
SO, YOU'RE FINALLY MAKING SOME NOISE?
YOU KNOW THE NIGHT AIR'S NO GOOD FOR SICK PEOPLE BUT I GUESS THERE'S NO POINT IN ME TELLING YOU THAT
KON!

YOU'RE JUST IN TIME!
HUH?
I THOUGHT TALKING MIGHT BE GOOD EXERCISE FOR MY VOICE

AND....
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU!
AH.....
RUSTLE
AH AH !
CRACK
CRACK
AHH...

oh
oh
ahh...
SFX CRUNCH
not good..
the cracks are growing larger..
at this rate...
I thought it was just a scratch... how careless of me.
...ssh.
HE'D HAVE TO DEFEAT ME FIRST, RIGHT?

WHY MUST I BE SO DELICIOUS..!?
I DON'T WANT TO BE EATEN!!
GAAAH!!
BON!
shuffle shuffle
SFX FLAP FLAP
I'll cool you down like a chick! ♫
here, I'll use my wings! ♫
you were asleep so long this time, even I was getting a little worried! ♫
OH, THANK GOODNESS! YOU'RE WAKING UP!
!

BON?
FLUTTER
YOUR ARMS

credit page

raw -> rawscans.com
translation -> sanada

chapter 67

the weathervane that forecasts blue skies

SO, HOW CAN A FLAT SURFACE BE MADE TO LOOK THREE-DIMENSIONAL?

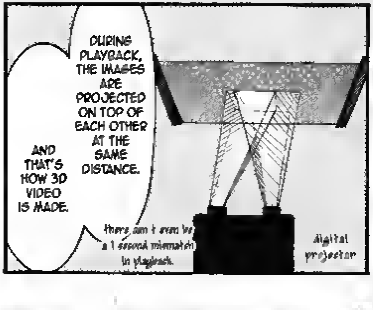
江戸基本巡回展

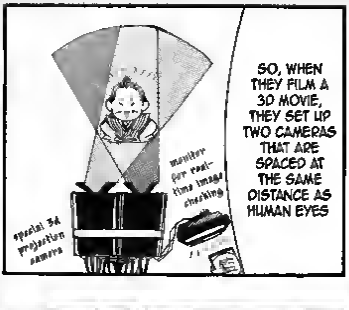
T/L: GREATER EDO BAKUMATSU TRAVELING EXHIBIT

AND THE AREA COVERED BY BOTH THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT EYES IS THE VISUAL FIELD.
THE POINT WHERE
視線
THE EYES CROSS
交点
THE FOCAL POINT
一焦点
that servant is creepy.
Ichika, the teacher can do it!
IT'S REALLY VERY SIMPLE.

THAT'S HOW WE PERCEIVE DISTANCE
AND HOW WE SEE IN THREE DIMENSIONS.
遠
近
HUMANS USE BOTH EYES TOGETHER WHEN THEY LOOK AT AN OBJECT TO MEASURE HOW FAR AWAY IT IS

THERE'S A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE IN VISION BETWEEN YOUR LEFT EYE AND YOUR RIGHT, ISN'T THERE?
NOW, CLOSE ONE EYE AND SEE WHAT IT'S LIKE.


DURING PLAYBACK, THE IMAGES ARE PROJECTED ON TOP OF EACH OTHER AT THE SAME DISTANCE.
AND THAT'S HOW 3D VIDEO IS MADE.
there isn't even be a 1 second mismatch in playback.
digital projector


SO, WHEN THEY FILM A 3D MOVIE, THEY SET UP TWO CAMERAS THAT ARE SPACED AT THE SAME DISTANCE AS HUMAN EYES
special 3d projection camera
monitor for real-time image checking

HOWEVER, YOU NEED SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TO WATCH IT. FOR INSTANCE, THESE GLASSES HAVE POLARIZED LENSES.
THEY'RE SPECIAL LENSES THAT SEPARATE THE LEFT AND RIGHT COMPONENTS OF A 3D IMAGE.

WELL, ANYWAY, IT REALLY BRINGS TOGETHER THE SCIENTIFIC AND PHILOSOPHICAL FIELDS.
IMAGINE IF WE CAN'T TELL PROJECTIONS FROM LIVING THINGS!

TO CREATE A 3D IMAGE WITHOUT THE NEED FOR SPECIAL GLASSES, YOU'VE HAVE TO ALTERNATE BETWEEN DISPLAYING THE LEFT AND RIGHT IMAGES AT AN EXTREMELY HIGH SPEED.
NOW, THERE ARE VARIOUS TYPES OF GLASSES THAT CAN SIMULATE 3D VISION. I'D LIKE YOU TO RESEARCH THEM ON YOUR OWN.
SPECTER EDO

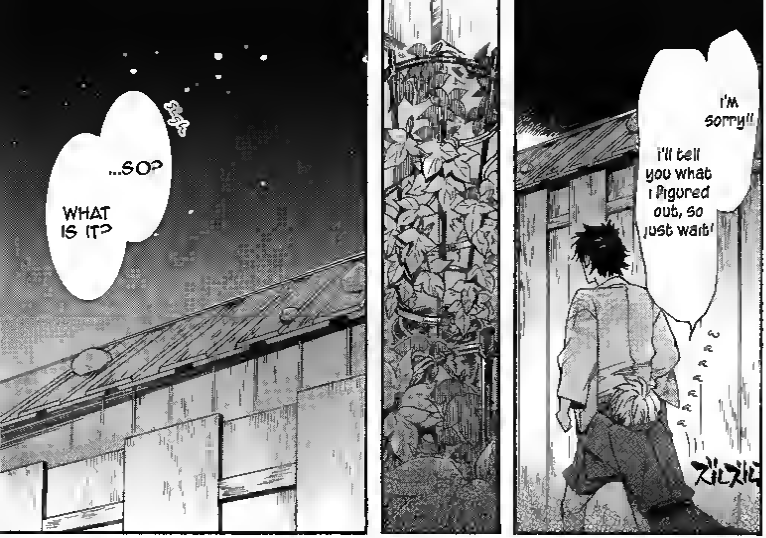
NOTE: THIS ALSO REQUIRES AN LCD SCREEN WITH A DIRECTIONAL BACKLIGHT. 3D TVS USING THIS TECH ARE IN DEVELOPMENT RIGHT NOW. HOWEVER, MOST OF THE CURRENT GLASSES-FREE 3D TVS DEPEND ON SPECIAL FILMS THAT CAN AFFECT THE IMAGE QUALITY. SO 3D WITH GLASSES STILL GIVES BETTER RESOLUTION FOR NOW.

あまつき
chapter 67
the weathervane that
forecasts blue skies

HIT ME.
CLENCH
SFX. WHACK
OWWW!
BACKHAND SLAP
...
HEY!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR!?
YOU ASKED FOR IT
NOT LIKE THAT! YOU DIDN'T LET ME FINISH!! HAVE SOME COMMON SENSE!!
ゴッホゴホッ!!
SFX. COUGH, SPUTTER

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT, THEN?
my throat
TO HIT ME WITH THAT...!
I WANTED YOU...
sniffle
OKAY
HERE I GO~!
SFX THUNK
DO IT AGAIN
gasp
SFX THUNK
gasp

WHAT?
I'VE GOT A BLIND SPOT BECAUSE OF THIS EYEPATCH!
MY LEFT EYE!!
I DIDN'T SEE IT.
DOES HE WANT ME TO DO IT AGAIN?
WHATEVER IT IS, I'VE HAD ENOUGH
...I DIDN'T..
HUH?
SO WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING AT THIS TIME?
HA!!
I'VE JUST CONFIRMED IT!!
SO...
..WELL, YEAH.
DUH
WHICH OF MY EYES AM I SEEING WITH NOW?


I'M SORRY!!
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I FIGURED OUT, SO JUST WAIT!
ZARARARARA
ZURUZURU
...SO?
WHAT IS IT?

SO YOU REALLY CAN'T SEE OUT OF THAT EYE, RIGHT?
I CAN'T CONSCIOUSLY SEE WITH IT.. I THINK
I DON'T GET IT.
UM, WELL, I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND IT WELL MYSELF.

...CLUE-LESS AS ALWAYS
SO, WHAT'S GOING ON?
YEAH!
ALL THIS TIME, YOU'VE BEEN SEEING STUFF OTHER PEOPLE COULDN'T SEE WITHOUT EVEN NOTICING IT?
BUT WHEN I COVER MY EYE, I CAN'T SEE IT.

HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?
BEFORE, YOU COULD SEE MY HAND MOVE WITH YOUR BLIND EYE, RIGHT?
BUT YOU DIDN'T NOTICE IT UNTIL NOW.
I GUESS I JUST RELIED ON MY NORMAL EYE, or something like that
RIGHT. BECAUSE IT'S SO WEIRD TO THINK ABOUT IT..
LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING
I FIGURED OUT THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION, SHINONOME!
BACK THEN...
HUH?
I'VE GOT IT!

"LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING"
"HOW DID YOU SEE MY ARM MOVE WHEN YOU'RE BLIND IN YOUR LEFT EYE?"
THE ANSWER IS THAT...
I WASN'T SEEING IT WITH MY EYE
OR RATHER, I WASN'T USING THIS...
I WAS USING 'THIS'.

IT'S LIKE I'M LOOKING DOWN ON MYSELF FROM ABOVE...
HEY...
CAN YOU SEE THIS?
flutter

glow
YEAH
HUH?
A BUTTERFLY?
DROP
YEAH
THAT GUY
grab
grab
THE PRINCESS...?
I THINK THEY MUST BELONG TO GINSHU-SAN
OR MAYBE THEY'RE FRAGMENTS OF HIM...
WITH THESE,
I'VE BEEN CATCHING GLIMPSES OF GINSHU-SAN'S MEMORIES
THEY GO INTO MY LEFT EYE...
AND I FEEL LIKE I BECOME GINSHU-SAN...
OR MAYBE, GINSHU-SAN BECOMES ME
OR MAYBE I BECOME A BUTTERFLY FLOATING THROUGH THE AIR...
IT'S REALLY WEIRD.

BUT INSTEAD OF SEEING THROUGH GINSHU-SAN'S EYES, IT'S LIKE I'M WATCHING FROM ABOVE.
BUT WHEN IT HAPPENS, I CAN SEE WHAT GINSHU -SAN SAW REGARDLESS OF MY BLIND EYE
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW HARD I THINK ABOUT IT, IT JUST HAPPENS ON ITS OWN
WEIRD AS IT IS, I'VE KINDA GOTTEN USED TO THE FEELING
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WELL, THAT'S MY THEORY, ANYWAY
SO I THOUGHT...
MAYBE THAT'S WHY I CAN SEE EVEN THOUGH MY BLIND SPOT"
"HEY, WHAT IF I'M ALWAYS WATCHING FROM OUTSIDE MY BODY?"
WHAT DO I THINK?
.....

I JUST WANTED TO KNOW WHICH OF YOU I'M TALKING TO.
THAT'S OKAY
"KON" WOULDN'T GET WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, ANYWAY

I THINK I DON'T HAVE A FUCKING CLUE WHAT'S GOING ON.
AHAHA~
you don't make any sense!!

CAUSE "SHINONOME" WOULD ONLY HAVE GIVEN ME 50 POINTS FOR THAT ANSWER

BUT I'M READY. I KNOW WHAT I'M DEALING WITH
well, sort of. I'm kinda slow.
BUT...
I'VE BEEN LOOKING AT THIS WORLD FROM ONE PERSPECTIVE
I'VE GOT TO STOP BEING SO SUPERFICIAL.

DON'T LOOK AT ME. I'M NOT A PRIEST OF A MONK.
I CAN'T PROMISE YOU ANY MIRACLES
HAHA...
WHAT HAPPENED TO SHINO-NOME GREAT GOD OF WISDOM?
DON DON
OUWA-ASS!!

BORN FROM AN EYE..!?
plop
SO IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S NOT THAT WEIRD THAT THE PRINCESS USED YOUR LEFT EYE
THE SUPREME SUN GODDESS, AMATERASU OOMIKAMI, WAS BORN FROM HER FATHER'S LEFT EYE.
YOU KNOW, THE "LEFT" HAS ALWAYS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE DIVINE IN SHINTO MYTH.
hmmm
!

I'M ABLE TO SEE THE WORLD AS IT WAS THROUGH GINSHU-SAN'S EYES.
hmmm
I STILL KINDA FEEL I'VE BORROWED SOMETHING FROM GINSHU-SAN WITH MY LEFT EYE.
I GUESS.

...BUT THAT'S A GOOD THING, RIGHT?
HMPH
I THINK IT'S WEIRD AND WRONG SO KNOCK IT OFF
WHY THE HELL ARE YOU GETTING INVOLVED WITH THAT PIECE OF SHIT? HE PISSES ME OFF

BUT, SHOULD YOU REALLY BE CHATTERING NON-STOP?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR THROAT?
GAH!
GRAB!
DAMN IT, YOU'RE PUSHING YOURSELF TOO HARD!

HEY, TSUYU-KUSA!
SORRY, DID WE WAKE YOU?
NOT REALLY
grumble

GLARE
turn

HEY, HE WAS THE ONE WHO STARTED TALKING TO ME
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, YOU SHITHEAD!? LETTING HIM OVERDO IT LIKE THAT!!
PEEG
sputter
slide
Hnh
Throb
HOLD...
YOU THINK THAT'S GOOD FOR HIS NECK?
HE NEVER HATED YOU
I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU THAT YOU CAN'T HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST GINSHU-SAN, BUT..
TSUYU-KUSA..

AND HE WAS IN THE SAME POSITION AS BYAKU-ROKU-SAN
I THINK MAYBE THEIR SITUATION WERE THE SIMILAR
I SAW BONTEN AND TSUYUKUSA
I SAW THE WORLD OF DEMONS THROUGH GINSHU -SAN'S EYES.
IT WAS TOO MUCH TO HANDLE ON THEIR OWN
BUT THEY STILL COULDN'T STOP WHAT HAPPENED
BUT I DIDN'T SEE ANY HATRED OR RESENT-MENT
HE'S JUST LIKE SHINSHUE-CHAN

!
!

SFX WALK

IF EVERY-THING IN THE WORLD WAS BLACK AND WHITE...
THINGS WOULD BE A LOT EASIER
YOU DON'T KNOW REALLY KNOW WHERE YOU FIT IN...
AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK...
THAT'S THE IMPRES-SION I GET FROM YOU.

.. KON
MAYBE YOU'D BE OKAY IF YOU HAD YOUR "SHINONOME" TO TALK TO.
BUT I WONDER IF IT'S NOT DOING MORE HARM THAN GOOD FOR ME TO BE HERE.
AND YOU'RE STILL LOST NOW.
I'M SORRY IF I'VE BEEN A BOTHER, AND I GUESS I'LL BE OKAY WITH WHATEVER YOU DECIDE
BUT..
I REALLY DON'T WANT YOU TO GO.
YEAH.
THIS IS A DEPRESSING CONVER-SATION.

I'VE JUST MADE UP MY MIND
BEFORE I WAS FUMBLING ALONG WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT I WAS DOING
I MADE A LOT OF DUMB MISTAKES.
AND RIGHT NOW, I'M FACING A MISTAKE THAT I CAN'T TAKE BACK
I ENVY YOU, TOKI.
BUT TO ANSWER WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT...
sigh
HEY!!
AT LEAST YOU'RE NOT LIKE A CERTAIN ASSHOLE ! DON'T EVEN WANT TO TALK TO HIM
I'M WILLING TO HELP MY FRIENDS, YOU KNOW?
WHO NEEDS A FRIEND WHO'S ALWAYS DOING STUPID SHIT WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING TO ME?
...I THINK YOU'RE DOING OKAY
I GUESS HE DOESN'T THINK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE MUCH...
AHAHAHA, YOU'RE RIGHT!
HIM
a certain asshole

GINSHU-SAN SHOWED ME A LOT OF THINGS...
NOPE
BUT IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME. AREN'T YOU WORRIED?
ugh
NOPE
IF HE DID, UTSUBUSHI WOULD LET ME KNOW
HE STILL HASN'T WOKEN UP?
who?
BONTEN
AND NOW...
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT...

SFX. FLAP FLAP FLAP
!!!
HUMAN!!
HUMAN!
HUMAN!
HUH!?
SFX. FLAP FLAP FLAP, CRASH
HUMAN
GAAAAH!
!?

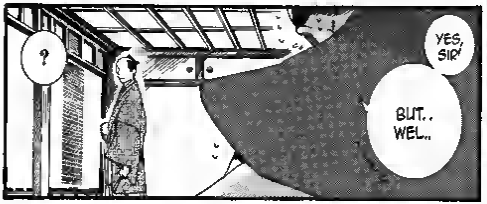
I'LL KEEP THIS SHIEH!
TSUYUKUSA, YOU'RE HERE TOO!! WONDERFUL!

what's this!
look what you did, utsubushi!?
SHSP

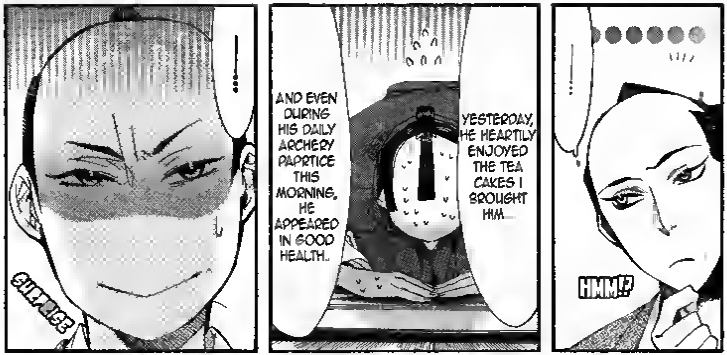
B...
BON HAS...
BON HAS DISSAP-PEARED!
SFX FLAP FLAP, FLAP

AH, YES
...YOU CALLED FOR ME, MY LORD?

THERE'S SOMETHING I WISH TO DISCUSS, SO PLEASE SEND FOR HIM.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOSHINOBU-DONO IN SOME TIME AND IT'S BEGINNING TO WORRY ME.


?
BUT.. WEL..
YES, SIR!

WHAT!?
IS THIS REALLY TRUE!?
HE IS ILL..!
SHOCK
!?
REGARDING LORD YOSHINOBU,
IT SEEMS HE SUDDENLY FELL SICK TODAY, SO HE IS RESTING AT HIS HOME. BUT IF YOU WISH, SIR, I SHALL RELAY A MESSAGE TO HIM.


GULP
!!!
AND EVEN DURING HIS DAILY ARCHERY PRACTICE THIS MORNING, HE APPEARED IN GOOD HEALTH..
YESTERDAY, HE HEARTILY ENJOYED THE TEA CAKES I BROUGHT HIM...
HMM!?

SFX. CHATTER, CHATTER

SFX. FREEZE

SFX. CHATTER, CHATTER

uWaaaa
uuu
AROUND HERE, WHEN IT COMES TO OUR BUSINESS, WE MEAN BUSINESS.
HEY, KID, YOU GOT BUSINESS WITH US?
'CAUSE YOU BETTER HOPE YOU DON'T.
YOU MIGHT KNOW ALOT OF IMPORTANT PEOPLE, BUT 'ROUND HERE, THEY'RE NOBODIES. GOT IT?
SO THIS GUY YOU'RE LOOKING FOR...
YOU EXPECT US TO HELP YOU?

初出：月刊コミックZERO-SUM 平成21年10月号～平成22年4月号

あまつき11 おわり

NOTE "KEIKI" IS AN ALTERNATIVE READING OF THE KANJI THAT SPELL "YOSHINOBU".

あとがき
……
……
どうした猫
なんで黙ってんだ
あ、もしかして
まだ怒気が
薄むのか？
喋る？
なら喋ってみっ
だかっ
……おい猫
スッ
はっ？　これは！
ネノローダ用
ふき出しだ
使えよ
それなら口で
話さなくても
心の中で思うだけで
猫にわかるからな
えっ!!

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raw -> rawscans.com
translation -> sanada